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**Diamantina Shire Council**

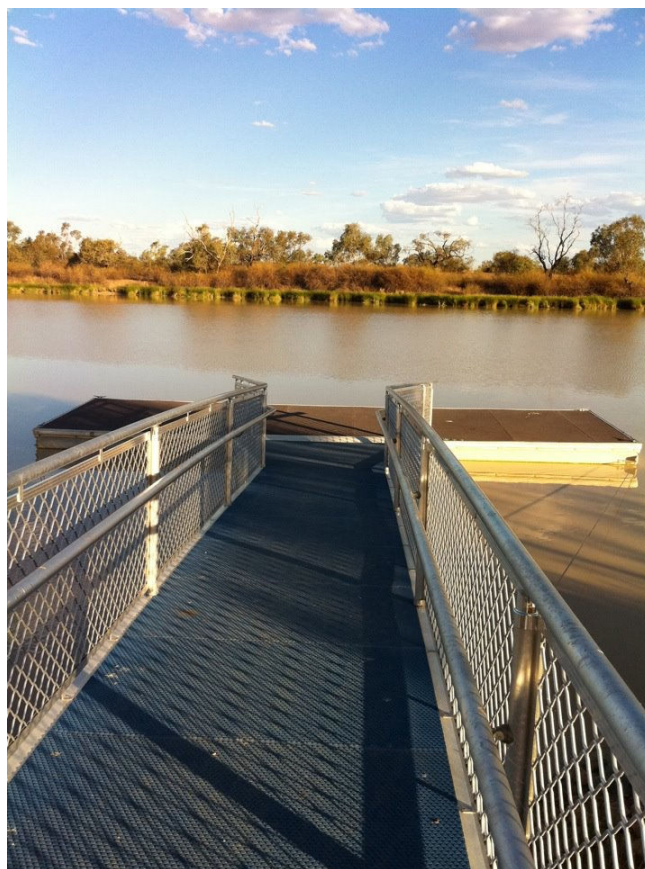
## Media Release – Birdsville gains new infrastructure

Birdsville residents will be celebrating this weekend as their new pontoon is officially opened. The pontoon, located on the shore of the Birdsville Billabong, has been jointly funded by the Queensland Government through the Department of Transport and Diamantina Shire Council.

The aim of the project was to open up the billabong to locals and visitors alike. This will allow people to enjoy non-powered boating activities and to have organised water events as it is a body of water that offers so much now it is accessible. Examples could include the world's desert swimming marathon or an inland surf boat race. The Billabong is already used extensively by local residents and the annual raft race on New Years day is a key feature on the local calendar.

It is also another attraction for visitors to the desert to bring their surf skis and other aquatic equipment to relax. There is also the possibility of forming a Diamantina Lifesaving Club and talk of a relationship with the Royal Lifesaving Association or aligning with a Queensland surf club.

The Birdsville pontoon will be officially opened in a brief ceremony at 2.30pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February by member for Mount Isa, Betty Kiernan, followed by a community afternoon tea in the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre Gallery. Everyone is welcome



Ends.

17 February 2012

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