



Queensland
Government

Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich

Our ref: MC44565

Minister for Transport

Your ref: Petition

16 OCT 2009

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1304-09 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Paul Hoolihan MP, Member for Keppel, on 15 September 2009 about an all-tide boat ramp suggested for construction at the southern end of Fisherman's Beach, Emu Park.

I am advised that under a partnership arrangement with local government, proposals for new or upgraded boating facilities outside the five state-managed state boat harbours, are considered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, on an annual basis after receipt of applications from local government or port authorities. Under this arrangement, the department funds the in-water facilities such as the boat ramp and any associated landing and councils provide the land-based infrastructure such as car-trailer parking, plus a management service for the facility.

The petitioners' request for a new boat ramp and associated facilities at Fisherman's Beach, Emu Park therefore, needs to be submitted to Rockhampton Regional Council and if supported, be the subject of a funding bid by the council to the department.

I am advised that provision of an all-tide boat ramp at the southern end of Fisherman's Beach, Emu Park would be a very costly undertaking. Due to the high tidal range at this location, development of a boat ramp of standard slope would require the construction of a causeway to gain access to deeper water and a breakwater for protection from wind-driven waves generated by the prevailing south-easterly winds. The estimated cost of providing a boat ramp, causeway and breakwater at this site would be between \$5m and \$10m.

The department has recently completed an upgrade from one to two lanes of the Coorooman Creek boat ramp at Emu Park costing over \$400 000. A pontoon or floating walkway is scheduled for installation at the ramp in 2010-11. Access to this ramp from the open sea is restricted at lower tides due to the bar at the mouth of the creek.

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In June 2009, a new floating walkway was completed at the boat ramp in Rosslyn Bay boat harbour to increase through-put at the ramp on busy days. The boat harbour lies about 12kms from Emu Park and provides an all-tide boat launching facility for the region in accordance with the department's statewide policy of concentrating scarce resources for maintenance dredging at selected locations.

During this financial year, a demand forecasting project will be undertaken to assess current and future demand for public boat launching facilities for the whole state. The infrastructure needs of the boating community on the Capricorn Coast will be included in this project.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rachel Nolan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport