



Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and  
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply

Our ref: PET 21104

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

8 JUN 2017

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition numbers 2753-17 and 2746-17 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday on 9 May 2017 about the Tateyama Maru, beached on Gloucester Island.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), through Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) is well aware of the current issue of the Tateyama Maru, which washed ashore on Gloucester Island in the Whitsundays as a result of Tropical Cyclone Debbie on 28 March 2017.

While the removal of the risks posed by this vessel are of paramount importance, the primary responsibility for its rehabilitation rests with the owner. MSQ must manage derelict vessels within a legislative and policy framework, to achieve the most acceptable safety and environmental outcome, as well as value for Queensland taxpayers' money.

MSQ is working with the vessel owner, in conjunction with the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, to encourage him to fulfil his responsibilities. In this instance, MSQ is cognisant of the resource issues faced by the owner and has been working closely with him to resolve the issues associated with this situation.

MSQ has no dedicated funding available to meet the costs of removing and disposing of derelict vessels. For vessels posing an unacceptable risk to navigation or the environment, and where the owner fails to act having been given reasonable opportunity to do so, then MSQ will make every effort within its budgetary capacity to manage that vessel directly.

There are formal processes which must be followed, either through the courts or through mutual agreement with the owner, before a taxpayer-funded recovery can be executed.

MSQ has worked closely with the owner to effect the removal of all the pollutants that are on the vessel, and also in relation to his ongoing ownership of the vessel with a view to expediting its removal from its current predicament.

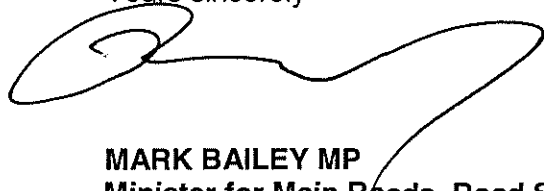
An Authorised Officer's Notice was issued to the owner to remove the pollutants to which the owner responded, advising that he did not have the financial means or capacity to comply.

As a result of the above, MSQ engaged contractors who have removed 10,700 litres of oil and fuel from the vessel. The contractors also removed 8 garden bags of oiled carpet. To access these pollutants, the contractors were required to dewater 290,000 litres of seawater from the engine room and accommodation spaces. This was passed through an oil and water separation system before being discharged overboard.

MSQ is currently in discussions with the owner, with the possibility that he will forfeit the vessel to MSQ for removal and destruction.

In response to the concerns of the petitioners, MSQ will continue to monitor the state of the vessel and work towards its successful removal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Bailey', written in a cursive style. The signature starts with a large loop on the left and ends with a long, sweeping tail that curves upwards and to the right.

**MARK BAILEY MP**  
**Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and**  
**Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply**