



Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

File No: QFS/14884
Ref No: 01193-2018
Your Ref: A289237

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15457 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3008 3700
Email FireandEmergencyServices@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

13 MAR 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 21 February 2018 about a petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 2787-17 on Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) resources and facilities.

As the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, I recognise and appreciate the selflessness, professionalism, dedication and commitment of all volunteers who provide essential services to ensure the safety of Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government provides financial support to the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) through a Service Agreement administered by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES). The current Service Agreement is for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019 and involves QFES providing funding subject to certain objectives being met, and the organisation conducting itself in accordance with its constitution.

The funding directed to VMRAQ by QFES is negotiated every three years, with the expenditure of the funds being prioritised, managed and distributed by the VMRAQ itself. VMRAQ units can also apply for other grant opportunities provided by the Queensland Government such as the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF). This fund is Queensland's largest one-off grants program, and not-for-profit groups operating in Queensland can apply for grants from \$500 to \$35,000 on a quarterly basis.

The petition also raised issues about the public boat ramp at Victoria Point. As ownership of the boat ramp is maintained by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), I have sought advice from TMR on the issues raised.

I am advised that TMR owns the public boat ramp at Colbourne Avenue, Victoria Point and the causeway out to it. The ramp is managed for TMR by Redland City Council (RCC), and RCC owns the floating walkway on the boat ramp.

VMRAQ has free use of the boat ramp and can request, just like emergency service vehicles on the road, to be given preference by other users at busy times.

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TMR maintains a dredged basin leading to the public boat ramp. An equivalent dredged access to any new ramp would be costly, over and above a new causeway, ramp and floating walkway or pontoon.

TMR advises that VMRAQ currently has a consultant providing estimates for a new pontoon for its use. TMR has consented, in principle, to allow VMRAQ access to the new pontoon from TMR's causeway.

The addition of a new dedicated VMRAQ/private ramp would cause several scarce public car-trailer parking bays to be discarded, exacerbating the existing shortage.

I trust this information is helpful to you. Should you wish to discuss this matter in more detail, please contact Mr Peter Clarke, Chief of Staff on telephone (07) 3008 3700.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a long horizontal line that loops back to the left.

The Honourable Craig Crawford MP
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services