



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET34214

Your ref: A490745

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17 OCT 2019

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3200-19, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 19 September 2019 about Yorkeys Knob boat ramp.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) conducted extensive investigations that determined there is an urgent need for additional boat launching facilities on the north side of Cairns.

Between April and September 2016, TMR officers worked closely with a reference group made up of elected representatives, Cairns Regional Council, CAREFISH and local boaties to inspect and assess numerous potential locations between Cairns and Ellis Beach. In late-2016, the reference group recommended vacant, state-owned land at Yorkeys Knob as the most suitable location to focus further investigations. The site was chosen based on a number of factors, including availability of land, all-tide access and limited environmental impact when compared to other sites.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering for the Cairns region and this is a Palaszczuk Government election commitment.

TMR consulted closely with local stakeholders and made significant changes to the concept design based on their feedback. In mid-2018, TMR hosted a public information display at Yorkeys Knob Shopping Centre, which attracted strong interest from the local community, with 155 people attending the display. From the 71 people who completed a feedback form at the public information display, 63 per cent expressed a preference in favour of the project. While we appreciate the concerns of the petitioners, a significant majority of residents support this project.

TMR has finalised technical investigations, including a detailed analysis of seabed, land and coastal environmental impacts. A golf course boundary protection report was also finalised. All reports have been published on TMR's website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/R/Recreational-boating-facilities/Yorkeys-Knob-boat-ramp and this link has been distributed to all stakeholders.

Following completion of the new boat ramp, existing demand will be spread over three ramps, two at Yorkeys Knob and one at Trinity Park. The Palaszczuk Government understands the importance of this facility to all northern beaches communities and can assure that TMR will continue to work closely with stakeholders as planning progresses.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads