



## Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: A528182

Your ref: 3283-20

9 March 2020

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions 3283-20 and 3269-20 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday on 6 February 2020 about Shute Harbour restoration.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) was advised that the Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) passed a resolution at a meeting on 13 November 2019 to close the Shute Harbour precinct, including the public boat ramp, from 30 November 2019. At a second meeting on 27 November 2019, WRC resolved to defer that closure to 20 January 2020.

WRC—as the appointed manager for the public boat ramp under the Transport Infrastructure (Public Marine Facilities) Regulation 2011—had advised TMR, as the asset owner, about the closure.

WRC further advised TMR that the closure was necessary for public safety and contract delivery reasons, associated with raising of the surface level of the whole lower precinct, and construction of new sea walls to protect the site during future storms. Though the Shute Harbour precinct has been closed since 20 January 2020, the Shute Harbour Restoration project will dramatically improve the precinct and its resistance to cyclone damage.

A contractor will undertake improvements to the boat ramp during the period of closure. TMR, as the boat ramp asset owner, has given consent to WRC to allow limited access to commercial operators during the closure period. This is a similar arrangement to the closure of the Clump Point boat ramp at Mission Beach while major upgrade works were taking place.

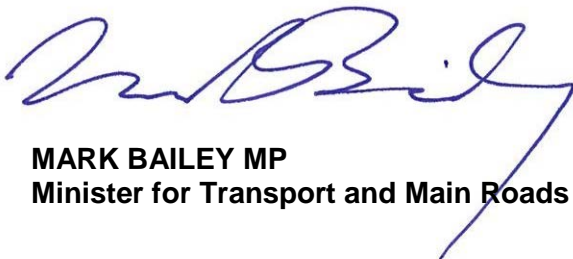
WRC has advised that in the event of a cyclone approaching, when site works will need to cease in any case, it will work with its contractor to allow limited emergency access to the boat ramp for owners of boats on a mooring. As the project manager and contract principal for the Shute Harbour Restoration Project, WRC is responsible for related community consultation.

I appreciate that during the construction period, some boaties may be inconvenienced. I am advised that access to the mooring grid can be conducted from Grubby Bay/Muddy Puddle (bay adjacent to Whitsunday barge facility) and Snows Beach (bay to the east of Shute Harbour public carpark). I note that access from these two foreshores is limited during low tides.

To facilitate outcomes for those who feel the Grubby Bay and Snows Beach options are restrictive, Whitsunday Rent A Yacht ([www.rentayacht.com.au](http://www.rentayacht.com.au)) and Island Transfers ([www.islandtransfers.com](http://www.islandtransfers.com)) have indicated that they can provide a user pays access service. Buoy mooring holders should contact these service providers direct to discuss alternative access to boats on buoy moorings.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**MARK BAILEY MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Main Roads**