



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 3535-21
Your ref: A699383

15 July 2021

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

I refer to petition 3535-21, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Nicholas Dametto MP, Member for Hinchinbrook on 15 June 2021 about improving marine access at Forrest Beach and Cassady Beach.

The Palaszczuk Government continues to invest a record \$100 million boost in new marine infrastructure around the state, which supports the growing number of boaties and local businesses that benefit from the associated boost in marine tourism.

I am advised that in 2013 a study was undertaken by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) into the possibility of a new boat ramp in Cassady Creek, which would provide protection for the Forrest Beach open beach boat ramp. TMR supports the findings of the 2013 study. The primary findings of the study were that:

- Cassady Creek is unsuitable for establishment of a significant new boat ramp due to several environmental constraints, including the proposed location (indicative footprint for the road, boat ramp and carpark) being in a declared Fish Habitat Area that has many protected mangroves and other marine plants, and has significant ecological values for fish habitat and breeding
- Forrest Beach was established as a part-tide good weather boat ramp and is not suited to installation of protective breakwaters for the following reasons:
 - breakwaters are typically large sized rock structures that extend from the seabed up and above the surface level of the water
 - wave protection options are expensive in terms of capital and annual maintenance costs and are not considered appropriate for ramps with usage rates experienced at Forrest Beach
 - wave protection structures also interfere with the natural movement of sand along the beach, meaning the site would need regular costly dredging to remove built-up sand.

I am further advised that in December 2018 a grant from TMR to Hinchinbrook Shire Council (HSC) facilitated the opening of a second floating walkway at the popular near-all-tide sheltered ramp at Dungeness, which services the whole HSC area including Forrest Beach and Cassady Creek. The boat ramp at Dungeness is approximately 35 minutes from Forrest Beach and Cassady Creek, which is well within a one-hour drive and is the accepted standard for the distance most Queensland boaties are prepared to travel to reach a boat launching facility suitable to their needs.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads