

MISSION BEACH BOATING ASSOCIATION Inc.



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President: Alan Jago - mob 0408 620 698

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Mission Beach Community Association,
By email,

13th February 2017

Attention Truus,

Could you please distribute this covering letter, as written, to all MBCA members for their consideration. Attached is Mission Beach Boating Association's "Letter to the Editor" written to inform Cassowary Coast residents and the wider public of the correct information pertaining to the proposed Mission Beach Safe Boating Infrastructure to be constructed at Clump Point by The State Government.

There is a Facebook page that we are concerned about, referring to the Clump Point proposal. It makes erroneous statements and is attempting to scuttle the project, but offers no positive suggestions towards solving the community's current boating problems.

A video is also linked, which displays a number of aerial photos superimposed with two marina options, shown as if this was being considered by the Department of State Development [DSD]. This video is grossly misleading as it illustrates options that were abandoned many years ago and have no relevance to the Clump Point/ Boat Bay infrastructure project that is being proposed.

Despite the fact that the people who set up the Facebook page are fully informed of the Perry Harvey Jetty's shortcomings and its failing structure, they still campaign to demand commercial operators be forced to use the jetty. The environment is less likely to be affected by the proposed Clump Point development than if commercial boats were required to operate from the Jetty. Contrary to the Environmental Lobbyist's assertions that the area will be degraded, the extended breakwater will enhance the growth of marine life and the environment will be better protected by the provision of proper and safe, loading and fueling facilities.

The Commercial operators have stated that the Perry Harvey Jetty is too exposed to weather, is an unsuitable structure, is unsafe for vessels, is dangerous for passenger and goods transfers and generally uneconomic to operate from and is in water that is too shallow for the tourist boats. Fueling is a hazardous operation and each tourist vessel needs regular large quantities of diesel fuel to fill their tanks. This operation has a risk of

diesel spillage unless the vessels are on a safe calm mooring. This is what the Clump Point infrastructure will provide.

MBBA's attached Letter to the Editor mentions boats that have been washed up on the rocks over recent years, which suffered serious damage. Truus, could you please include this photograph of "Quickcat 4" with this letter, to demonstrate one such accident that could have destroyed the ecology of the local beaches and reefs, had the fuel tank been ruptured.

The proposed project is being built to protect life, property and the environment.

MBCA members, please call me on 0408 620 698 should you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan W Jago". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

Alan W Jago

President

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PROPOSED MISSION BEACH MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AT CLUMP POINT

It has been brought to my attention that a local identity has a Facebook page, which is requesting local residents protest against *"a Marina being built at Clump Point"*.

This is erroneous and mischievous.

There is **NO** design being developed to build a Marina.

The marine facilities to be built at Clump Point are being designed, will be built and maintained by the Harbors and Marine Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority strictly controls such development.

After it is completed the Cassowary Coast Regional Council will most likely manage the facilities.

The need for safe facilities has been widely recognized by local residents and Governments for many years dating back to the beginning of the time when tourist vessels operated from the first jetty at Narragon Beach. In the ensuing years many people have been injured embarking and disembarking at the Jetty from vessels, tossed up and down by the disturbed sea conditions that prevail all year round in this exposed location. Expert marine engineers confirm this is the wrong place to have a jetty.

Because of its exposed location, during heavy weather, many boats have washed up on the Narragon beach rocks. Tourist boats carry more than 1500 liters of diesel fuel. Should a fuel tank be breached diesel fuel would be spilled in the environment. The "Quickcat 4" tourist boat was washed up on the rocks in 2011 and it hull holed just millimeters from its fuel tank. If that hole had been at the fuel tank, thousands of liters of diesel would have spilled into the sea. I will leave you to imagine the consequences.

The ecology of Bingil Bay and further up the coast, including the inshore reefs, the marine creatures and the marine flora would be destroyed even by a small fuel spillage.

Clump Point infrastructure is being built to avoid such disasters and ensure passengers' safety.

The bay behind Clump Point is named "Boat Bay Clump Point", designated "Boat Harbor Reserve for Local Government" registered title R1649 – lot 550 on NR7351. The title states a land area of 136 hectares under section 23(1) Land Act 1994.

With this description, the area is already reserved for this class of development, so there should be no impediment to the development.

The Mission Beach area has developed over nearly 100 years, mostly to serve the desires of local people who wished to spend their leisure time by and on the sea. Growth was very slow for the first 50 years as there were no services developed. What there is today has happened because there are businesses that offer employment and serve the locals and the tourist, without whom there would

only be 4 little holiday villages along this coast as before. Following cyclones we have experienced resident and tourist numbers drop. Consequently businesses have not been able to sustain themselves and people have left the area. We have a School, a Police Station, an Ambulance Service a Fire Service, etc., several Shopping Centers and many Service Businesses. Unless we can satisfy the tourist demands the economy will decline and Mission Beach will lose its shopping and community services and shut up shop. Our properties will be worth very little, being difficult to sell at any price and all we have worked for will be lost.

The proposed infrastructure at Clump Point has been presented to local residents at many public meetings and on each occasion the concept received more than 98% support. This infrastructure is the minimum necessary to serve both the Recreational and the Commercial boating that attracts the tourist. Without this facility there will be further declining economy. Without businesses and tourist opportunities there would be less money spent in Mission Beach to make the area economically viable.

PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE AND THINK CAREFULLY HOW YOU WOULD BE AFFECTED BY SUCH A CONTRACTION OF THE ECONOMY. EXPRESS YOUR SUPPORT FOR SAFE BOATING FACILITIES.
DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEGATIVE FACEBOOK PROTEST.



Alan W Jago

President

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Why do we need better marine facilities?



“Quickcat 4” ran aground in 2011

Damage \$ unknown.
Large hole on Starboard side 300mm from 11,000lt diesel tank.
To date vessel is still on the slip.

Damage to the tourism industry.

Why?

No safe anchorage



Groundings



Almost every commercial operator has suffered loss including, “Quickcat 1”, “Quickcat 3”, “Quickcat 4”, “Calypso 1” (twice), “Calypso 2”, “Kavannah”, “Enchantress” & “Blue Fin” and more recently “Relentless” and commercial fishing vessel “Betty Lou” have washed up in the area.

This causes significant loss to our tourism sector hence has a significant impact to our base economy.

This is and will continue to be an environmental disaster and/or tragedy waiting to happen unless it is fixed.