

The facts about Boat Bay Boat Harbour Reserve

Pre and post Cyclone Yasi

- some detail -

- Boat Bay at Clump Point has been a gazetted Boat Harbour Reserve since shortly after requested by the Johnstone Shire Council on the 3rd April 1984.
- A number of our company directors in the late 80's and early 90's approached State Government in capacity as representatives of the Mission Beach community and Mission Beach Chamber of Commerce for Government funding for proper commercial facilities.
- In 1993 Co-ordinator General advised insufficient Government Funding available for this purpose and it should be funded by private enterprise.
- Our company, incorporated in April 1993, proposed a safe all-weather facility at Boat Bay since 1994 lodging a formal Development Application in April 2005.
- Current jetty was put in place in 1994 / 1995 as a temporary structure with a seven to ten (7 – 10) life span to enable Council to put to State Government a long term solution to marine operation in Boat Bay. This has not been done to date.
- After lodgement of Development Application in 2006, State Government as owner of the Reserve said that before considering the Application further it required local Council, as trustee of the Reserve, to prepare a Management Plan for the future use of the Reserve.
- Council [Johnstone in receivership and later Cassowary Coast Regional Council] have said that they cannot afford the Management Plan process.
- During 2009 / 2010 / 2011 this company has assisted with lobbying State Government to fund the Management Plan process. At the Community Cabinet meeting in Innisfail in February 2010 Co-ordinator General assured the Mayor and one Councillor, our directors and a number of boat operators that the funding would be paid for by the State Government for the Management Plan.
- Post-Yasi – The need for that funding and Management Plan process to be implemented has become acute as Council resources are stretched even more than before and in other directions.
- Our company fully supports the temporary and immediate repair of the Jetty and the Boat Ramp to allow the use of both facilities in the recovery process.
 - The Island Resorts desperately require barge landing facilities for their reconstruction and the sharing of the ramp facilities with private users will have to be a fact of life until proper permanent facility is in place after the Management Plan process.
 - In the immediate term however our struggling community will benefit from the sourcing of materials locally during the recovery process of the Island Resorts.

- Commercial operators must have the use of at least the Jetty in fair weather to enable operations to recommence as soon as possible. Immediate funding should also be made available to make serviceable the Dunk Island Jetty.

- What **must be avoided** is the further wasting of a large amount of Government Funds on a semi-permanent repair of a jetty that is in itself in an unsafe location being directly exposed to northerly winds and the residual swell in strong south-easterlies [NOTE photo in flyer shows a rare calm day when it is safe to use. Contrast with photo in storm conditions 2009 attached].
- By contrast, our facility as proposed compresses all marine operations onto the facility island "Mission Cove" which will be maintained under a strict Environmental Management Plan at no cost to tax or rate payers.
- Our company does not seek to cut any corners as alleged in the approval process. What we want to see is urgent expediting of funding and implementation of the Management Plan process, a first step in a long term solution to the maritime operations in Boat Bay.
- As for dividing community as alleged in the flyer, our independently audited rate-payer survey showed a 73.6% approval rating for our project in 2005. We suspect that percentage is similar or higher now.
- Our town is dying economically and the opposition seem happy to continue to allow this to occur.
- C4 have been approached on many occasions to liaise with our company particularly regarding vegetation on the Island, and more recently the revegetation of Clump Point when negotiations with the traditional owners led our company to conclude that it was best to increase the size of the Island slightly to accommodate a public boat ramp as well, and return Clump Point to its natural vegetated state. Traditional owners are very concerned at the constant degradation of Clump Point with further development. It is simply not a suitable location for large amounts of car parking or tourist boat operations, with toilets and associated facilities.
- C4 have declined to respond to any correspondence from our company notwithstanding that we have offered to purchase all plants for the project from their nursery and rely on them for horticultural advice re landscaping to blend in with the natural environment.
- Remember, no mangroves are to be removed and many in fact are to be planted on the western and north-western wall of the Island.
- Clump Point is a naturally protected area and any facility built within the Bay will have the appropriate cyclone rating.
- Our company sees a lot of hypocrisy in the latest flyer by C4 and others as follows:-
 - The community should be aware how the local conservation group C4 came into being.
 - Tony Lee was approached by a number of boaties and conservationists in the late 1980's to comment on and to lobby against a proposed marina development at Wongaling Beach, put forward by Mission Beach Marina Pty Ltd.

- Tony Lee convinced the proponents after a couple of public and private meetings that it was not environmentally responsible in that location and that the only environmentally sound location for a safe boat harbor at Mission Beach was in the Boat Bay Harbour Reserve at Clump Point.
- One of the company directors of Mission Beach Marina Pty Ltd was in fact Malcolm [Mal] Charlwood who became one of our founding directors in 1993 and remains to this day.
- Those who approached us to help stop the Mission Beach Marina proposal approached Tony and Rosemary Lee to assist with the incorporation of Mission Beach's first incorporated conservation group, the Movement for Responsible Coastal Development [MRCD]. This was later shortened to C4.
 - Tony and Rosemary Lee were founding members and honorary solicitors for the group for over 10 years. Their membership was unilaterally terminated after the Application for approval for the Marina at Boat Bay was lodged, without reference to them and despite their support and membership over many years.
- THE FACTS are therefore quite different to the "information" in the flyer.
- As for the alleged inconsistency with the community vision for Mission Beach [FNQ2031 Regional Plan] despite the long-standing nature of this Application, no director of this company, or the many commercial and private boaties with whom they are in constant contact were ever approached by or on behalf of any Government agency for any input.

In conclusion we suggest that not only Mission Beach but the region generally would benefit from the Mission Cove project or something very similar to it whereby commercial and private operations are conducted from one properly protected location.

As ever, our door is always open. Any further enquiries please contact us as follows:-

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