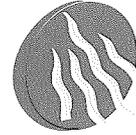




**Hon John Mickel MP**  
Member for Logan



**Queensland  
Government**

Our ref: MC39980

Your ref: Petitions No. 1171-08

**Minister for Transport, Trade,  
Employment and Industrial Relations**

19 JAN 2009

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition (No. 1171-08) lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Jason O'Brien MP, Member for Cook on 26 November 2008 regarding the condition of Idabu Pontoon, Thursday Island.

Queensland Transport has advised that following a detailed investigation into the long term management of Idabu pontoon, particularly associated with difficulty and expense of ongoing maintenance dredging, it was concluded that the best long term option for the boating community was to install a new pontoon facility in deeper water to avoid the need for future maintenance dredging.

In consultation with Ports Corporation of Queensland, Queensland Transport has undertaken a preliminary design of a new pontoon facility to be constructed adjacent to Engineers Wharf. The facility has been designed with significantly greater berthing area than the existing structure to facilitate the growing demand on Thursday Island and the facility and access ways have been designed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Legislation to cater for the aged and disabled.

The new facility will take the place of one of Ports Corporation of Queensland's commercial berths. For this reason the short southern side of the facility will be used for commercial operators; however the remaining facility and the existing tidally restricted pontoon will be for the exclusive use of the recreational boating community.

Queensland Transport has advised that this project is being fast tracked given the condition of the current facility, and subject to approvals and contractor availability, works should be completed in the second half of 2009.

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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN MICKEL MP**  
**Minister for Transport, Trade,**  
**Employment and Industrial Relations**