



Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: MC20/2897

Your ref: A559411

12 June 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2020 about petition number 3313-20 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 19 May 2020 about a request from the Russell Island Development Association Inc to build emergency vehicle barge ramps on Macleay, Russell and Pimpama Islands.

The Association states the provision of these additional barge ramps would reduce the risk of people travelling to the islands contracting COVID-19 by allowing them another option, than the current option of travelling on the 200 people capacity ferries and alleviate the pressure of parking at Redland Bay.

At the outset, COVID-19 has impacted the way all Queenslanders go about their daily lives and as we are seeing life will be different, and adjustments will need to be made by all Queenslanders. By doing this, we all keep our communities safe.

The issue of barge ramps on the islands falls within the jurisdiction of the Redland City Council. While the Local Government Regulation 2012 establishes the head of power for Councils to construct and maintain boat ramps in their areas, the decision to do so is of course influenced by many factors including community priorities, available budget and demand for services. The Local Government legislative framework affords Councils considerable autonomy in determining the infrastructure and services they deliver to their communities. This recognises individual Councils are best placed to determine the services and facilities to be delivered to their communities and the revenue required to ensure such delivery meets the needs and expectations of their ratepayers. There are limited powers for the State to intervene or direct any Local Government in such operational matters. As such, I would suggest the petitioners raise this issue directly with the Council.

On 19 May 2020, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade, announced the Queensland Government's Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, which is designed to support the economic recovery across all of Queensland's communities from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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This Strategy includes the \$200 million 2020-21 COVID Works for Queensland funding program. The Council will receive \$2,880,000 from this program which is to be used on job creating new infrastructure, maintenance or minor works projects that are focused on essential services, economic development and community well-being outcomes. The Council will be required to deliver the projects by 30 June 2021.

The petitioners should note both the Queensland Government and the Redland City Council continue to invest in infrastructure for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. For example, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Council are currently working towards the \$34.1 million upgrade of island jetties at Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra Islands.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP
Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs