



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 11617

Your ref: Petitions

05 NOV 2013

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 2177-13 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra on 16 October 2013 about a Pumicestone Passage Management Plan.

The waterways management of Pumicestone Passage is undertaken through the provisions of the *Transport Infrastructure (Waterways Management) Regulation 2012* [TI(WM)R]. This piece of legislation replaces the former *Transport Infrastructure (Sunshine Coast Waterways Management Plan 2000*.

Particular restrictions pertinent to the use of watercraft in regulated waters are detailed in Section 19 of the TI(WM)R, which are enforced by Authorised Officers appointed under Section 228K of the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* (TIA).

The environmental concerns raised by the petitioners, especially those about erosion, flooding and siltation fall under the jurisdiction of the Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, while concerns regarding sea birds and compliance with international treaties fall under the jurisdiction of the Honourable Steve Dickson MP, Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

On matters of maritime safety, Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), a branch of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, has established a comprehensive system of speed limits, operational speed limits and water skiing prohibitions, as well as free-styling, wave jumping and surfing prohibitions for watercraft operating in all Sunshine Coast waterways. Many of these measures complement the goals of the TI(WM)R.

The Noosa River, where a marine zone has been formally established has additional provisions in place which impose further operational requirements on personal watercraft, aircraft and hovercraft. Otherwise, the maritime safety framework for Pumicestone Passage is similar to those for the Maroochy and Noosa Rivers.

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In relation to vessels violating the provisions of the maritime safety framework, currently MSQ through its enforcement partners, the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and the Sunshine Coast District Water Police has 15 Shipping Inspectors available to patrol Pumicestone Passage to enforce the TOMSA provisions. I am sure you can appreciate that these officers cannot be everywhere, all the times, and in their absence some vessel operators will unfortunately violate speed limits, showing a general disregard for the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others.

Consequently, to assist in the safe management of vessel operations in all Queensland waters, MSQ actively encourages anyone witnessing speeding offences or other unsafe on water activities to report such incidents. MSQ, through its enforcement partners, will thoroughly investigate all reports and take appropriate compliance action wherever the evidence permits. This includes acting on photographic evidence provided by local residents.

The petitioners have indicated a desire to see personal watercraft (jet skis) operated in a segregated area. As indicated earlier, there has for some years now, been a marine zone established in the Noosa River to regulate certain vessel activities. Marine zones are established at the request of a government entity or the local council. The petitioners may wish to consider contacting the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to discuss the possibility of gaining its support for the establishment of a marine zone in the Pumicestone Passage to better manage some of the issues you have raised.

More information on marine zones is available on the MSQ website at www.msq.qld.gov.au/Waterways/Marine-zones.aspx.

Yours sincerely



Scott Emerson MP
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