



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC15591

**Minister for
Transport and Main Roads**

14 OCT 2005

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Jet Boats Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No 487-05

Thank you for your letter of 10 August 2005 with an attached petition from Brisbane residents about proposed jet boat operations on the Brisbane River.

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) is the government agency responsible for regulating commercial vessel operations in Queensland waters, including the Brisbane River. While MSQ previously had no jurisdiction over amenity issues associated with operation of motor vessels, the agency has recently made amendments to the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* to widen the heads of power. This will enable the agency to better manage such issues, especially in relation to the operation of recreational jet skis.

However, it should be noted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will continue to have primary responsibility for environmental concerns.

Mr Preston Richardson of Jet Boats Brisbane Pty Ltd was advised that before MSQ would consider his proposal, he would be required to:

1. Submit full details of his proposed operations in writing to the Regional Harbour Master (Brisbane).
2. Conduct extensive consultation with community, industry, sporting groups and law enforcement agencies on his proposed operation.

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I am advised that Mr Richardson convened a public presentation on 20 May 2005 to outline the details of his proposed jet boat operation. About 40 concerned citizens attended the presentation and voiced strong opposition to the proposal. MSQ and other enforcement agency officers attended this presentation, however had no input into the content of the presentation.

Representatives for Jet Boats Brisbane Pty Ltd answered questions on noise, area of operation and clearances from other users of the river. Jet Boats Brisbane Pty Ltd have given a commitment to respond to all questions and concerns in writing and submit all relevant correspondence to MSQ for consideration.

I am further advised that MSQ again met with Mr Richardson on 22 June 2005 to advise him that the public presentation was not considered sufficient public consultation. MSQ also wrote to Mr Richardson on 20 May 2005 informing him that Jet Boats Brisbane Pty Ltd had also failed to provide responses to individual complaints and concerns.

As with all applications for commercial operations, MSQ will consult with the relevant local council and EPA to identify and assess possible impacts of the proposed operation.

MSQ will not approve any application for commercial operation on the Brisbane River unless it is convinced that there will be no adverse safety or other implications, either for the operation itself, or other waterways users.

I would like to thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads