



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref MC16941

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

29 NOV 2005

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Jet Boat Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No 495-05

Thank you for your letter of 6 October 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 will continue to have primary responsibility for noise and bank erosion concerns.

Mr 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 (RHM); and
2. Consult fully 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 and 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 officers of MSQ met with Mr Richardson to discuss the outcomes of the public presentation and as a result the Regional Harbour Master wrote to Mr Richardson to advise that the public presentation conducted on 20 May 2005 was not considered sufficient and that Jet Boats Brisbane Pty Ltd have not provided MSQ with their responses to individual complaints and concerns.

Mr Richardson has recently been in contact with the Regional Harbour Master's office and has requested a further meeting with MSQ officers to submit information on the public presentation. This meeting will be held in the near future.

MSQ will not approve any application for a commercial operation on the Brisbane River unless it is convinced that there will be no adverse safety implications, either for the operation itself, or other waterways users. Additionally, MSQ will consider amenity and other impacts of such a proposal before approving or disapproving any application to undertake such a commercial operation in confined waters.

Jet Boats Brisbane Pty Ltd will not be exempted from current legislation in relation to vessel registration, licensing, speed limits or other safety requirements.

I trust this advice is of assistance to you.

~~Yours~~ sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads