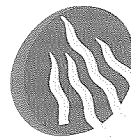




Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Transport

Our ref: MC43557

Your ref: Petitions

7 OCT 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I refer to a petition number 1257-09 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Steve Dickson MP, Member for Buderim, on 4 August 2009 about the Maroochy River discussion paper.

The Maroochy River discussion paper aimed to make an objective assessment in relation to the operations and activities of ships on the Maroochy River. The purpose of the discussion paper was to engage members of the public and other stakeholders in discussion about the best way to ensure marine safety for everyone on a very popular Sunshine Coast waterway.

I am advised that Maritime Safety Queensland, attached to my department, produced the discussion paper as a matter of priority following correspondence from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. The discussion paper is the first step in a process that seeks to ensure that local waterways are arranged in the most effective way. As Transport Minister I assure you that full stakeholder consultation will be undertaken before any decisions about speed limits and water skiing on the Sunshine Coast are made.

The Queensland Government is committed to striking a balance between protecting our natural environment and ensuring Queenslanders can lead an active lifestyle. I acknowledge the petitioners' concerns for water skiing, particularly on Eudlo Creek. The discussion paper puts forward recommendations about speed limits and water skiing, however, comments and submissions from members of the public and stakeholder groups play a vital role in informing future decisions on policy and legislative change. I assure you that the comments and submissions about the discussion paper's recommendations will be carefully considered to ensure the best possible outcome for all users of the Maroochy River.

Yours sincerely

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport

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