



Our ref: PET 56920

7 January 2026

1 William Street Brisbane
GPO Box 1549 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7110
Email transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 4309-25, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 11 December 2025 about boat ramp congestion at Mackay Harbour.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads acknowledges the importance of the Mackay Harbour boat ramp as a critical all-tide sheltered facility for the Mackay region and the challenges posed by high demand for trailer parking during peak periods.

The Mackay Regional Council (MRC) is the legislatively appointed manager of the Mackay Harbour boat ramp under the Transport Infrastructure (Public Marine Facilities) Regulation 2023 and, as such, is responsible for ensuring adequate parking facilities at the site. The existing overflow car trailer park, located approximately 500 metres from the boat ramp, is managed by MRC on port land.

The North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP), who own the vacant land adjacent to the boat ramp, has advised the requested site for additional parking falls within the Port of Mackay security regulated port area. This land is subject to the Port of Mackay Priority Port Master Plan and Overlay which guides the use and development of port land.

The requested land is not currently approved for recreational purposes under these plans. The land is strategically significant for potential redevelopment of Berth 1 at the Port of Mackay which is expected to support containerised trade and oversize cargo operations, as outlined in NQBP's Corporate Plan.

The Crisafulli Government recognises the high demand for boat launching facilities in the Mackay region and notes that longer-term solutions, such as new all-tide sheltered facilities, are constrained by significant costs and lack of suitable locations. Future possibilities, such as East Point at the entrance to the Pioneer River, remain dependent on private development and are unlikely to be realised in the short term.

Given the complexities involved—such as legislative, economic, and community considerations—the Crisafulli Government encourages proponents to engage directly with MRC and NQBP to explore potential solutions. Any proposed changes to port land use would require significant consultation and endorsement from relevant State and Federal departments, as well as amendments to the Port of Mackay Land Use Plan, Master Plan and Overlay.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to supporting recreational boating in the Mackay region and will continue to work with stakeholders to address these challenges.

Any further enquiries should be directed to MRC as the appointed manager.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Brent Mickelberg
BRENT MICKELBERG MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads