

Dept ref: TF26/520; D26/3999

2 April 2026

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 4354–25, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 3 March 2026, regarding the request to fast-track Stage 2 of the Coomera TAFE Marine Centre of Excellence.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to delivering modern, high-quality TAFE infrastructure to support skills development and meet growing workforce demand across Queensland's critical industries. As part of this commitment, the Government is investing \$201.1 million to establish four new TAFE Centres of Excellence in Caloundra, Moreton Bay, Rockhampton and the Southern Moreton Bay region.

This investment will significantly expand Queensland's capacity to train people to work in industries experiencing high demand and/or skills shortages, particularly important as Queensland addresses critical housing, health and Olympic infrastructure needs.

The \$11.8 million Coomera TAFE Marine Centre of Excellence - delivered with support from the Australian Government - is TAFE Queensland's most advanced marine training facility. Purpose-built to train up to 500 students per year, it provides state-of-the-art workshops and industry-standard learning environments for high-demand trades including boat building, marine mechanics and marine upholstery.

Situated near the Coomera Marine Precinct, the Centre works closely with industry partners such as the Boating Industry Association to provide direct employment pathways and essential safety and technical credentials aligned to the needs of the marine and superyacht sectors.

The Government recognises the importance of further investment to grow a skilled local workforce in the marine sector. To support this need, a \$2 million commitment has been made toward establishing a new Marine Centre of Excellence in the Southern Moreton Bay region. This facility will focus on developing a pipeline of skilled workers and addressing critical skills shortages in the industry. This new investment will complement and leverage existing TAFE Queensland marine training assets, including the Wellington Point "Boat Shed", the Alexandra Hills campus, and importantly, the Coomera TAFE Marine Centre of Excellence.

The Government will continue to monitor demand for training activity for marine sector jobs, noting the increased capacity that will be provided by the new Southern Moreton Bay Marine Centre of Excellence due for completion mid 2027. The Coomera campus, as part of this expanded hub of marine training assets, will provide an ideal base to cater for any future growth, and will be considered as part of any future plans to grow marine training assets in the region.

Thank you to the petitioners for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Ros Bates MP
Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training