

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you need a new boat ramp facility in the area?

The *Demand Forecasting Study* undertaken by Transport and Main Roads in 2011, identified that Rockhampton and Livingstone council areas had shortfall in all-tide access boat ramp lanes.

The only all-tide boat ramp in Livingstone Shire is Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour which in times of peak demand experiences issues with overcrowding and limited parking.

The upgrade to Coorooman Creek boat ramp has assisted slightly by easing capacity issues. However, the changing bar conditions at the creek mouth means all-tide access out to the open ocean is not often available.

How many boaties are currently in the area and how much has this increased by?

There are currently 9,781 registered boat owners (March 2016 figures) in Livingstone Shire and Rockhampton Regional Council areas.

From 2011, there has been an increase of 17.5% with an average of 3.5% growth per year.

This is currently higher than other regional centres such as Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

Has the Ritamada option been investigated?

The study undertaken by Rockhampton Regional Council in 2013 identified Ritamada Headland as a potential site for a large scale boat harbour type development.

Transport and Main Roads has since completed initial investigations into a smaller recreational boating facility at Ritamada Headland which included undertaking a hydrographic survey of the area.

A new boating facility at Ritamada Headland (similar size to that proposed for Emu Park) requires a reclamation area for parking and breakwaters for shelter and a new access road to be provided to the location. This has been costed at over \$25 million and is considered a longer term solution. This includes approximately \$10 million for a new access road and \$15 million for a new recreational boating facility.

As a longer term solution this could include launching opportunities for future development on Great Keppel Island.

When will work commence on constructing this boat ramp?

No further commitment other than the completion of this study has been made. This study will be used to assess if this project progresses any further or whether other solutions need to be investigated.

Have you considered environmental impacts?

Potential environmental impacts as a result of the proposed works have been considered as part of preliminary planning works. Key environmental constraints (identified by the

preliminary environmental assessment) that require further consideration prior to finalisation of design include obtaining further information on the migratory bird species that utilise the project area and whether the site provides any critical habitat for these species. Several nationally significant bird species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* are known to occasionally frequent the broader project area.

Further information needs to be obtained to determine whether turtle species utilise the area surrounding the proposed works. If a proposal is to proceed, key environmental constraints will be further analysed through the outcomes of a field ecological survey.

Why are costs so high?

Due to the large tidal range in the area, a new all-tide access facility would require a large reclamation and causeway access. To avoid impacting on the existing parkland at Emu Park, additional reclamation is required to support car trailer parking close to the boat ramps.

Breakwaters are also required for both options to provide sheltered launching, which also increases the costs. The breakwaters and reclamation areas need to be designed high and wide enough to resist wave overtopping during storm/cyclone events, which would cause significant damage.

What consultation has occurred previously about this issue?

Previous consultation includes:

- Late 2012 – household survey by Rockhampton Regional Council.
- September 2014 – household survey by previous Local Member, Bruce Young.
- September 2014 – Boat Ramp Information Open Day held by South Capricorn Coast Boat Ramp Advisory Committee at Emu Park.

The current engagement that Transport and Main Roads is undertaking will be the most comprehensive consultation study for a possible new boat ramp facility at Emu Park. This study will be used to assist in deciding whether a new ramp proceeds at this location or not.

Who will be attending the stakeholder meetings?

The study team has identified a number of key stakeholder groups that will be invited to attend face-to-face meetings. These groups will include Livingstone Shire Council, Capricorn Conversation Council, Emu Park Lions Club, local traditional owners, Emu Park businesses and residents groups and local boating and fishing clubs.

Emu Park Recreational Boating Study

Project overview

A study is currently underway to assess the feasibility of a new recreational boating facility located at Emu Park. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is undertaking a Social and Economic Benefits and Impacts study which is expected to be completed by mid this year.

This study will include a comprehensive assessment of the direct and indirect benefits and impacts to the local community and wider Southern Capricorn Coast for two proposed options at Emu Park. Consultation with stakeholders including residents, local recreational boating/fishing groups, community groups and local businesses as well as other interested stakeholders will form part of this study.

History

In 2011, the Department of Transport and Main Roads undertook a study that established current and future demand for recreational boating for the state of Queensland. The *Demand Forecasting Study* was undertaken for each of the five Transport and Main Roads regions, of which Central Region was one, to assist in the identification of the areas of the greatest need for additional or upgraded recreational boating facilities.

This study identified that Rockhampton and Livingstone council areas had a shortfall in all-tide access boat ramp lanes. Since 2011, there has also been steady growth of boating registrations for the Rockhampton and Livingstone council areas

A detailed site selection study was completed in 2013 by Rockhampton Regional Council to identify potential sites for the establishment of new all tide facilities to relieve pressure on existing facilities on the Capricorn Coast. This identified Fisherman's Beach as the preferred location for a new facility to be investigated further.

Transport and Main Roads has since undertaken further investigation and developed two feasible boating facility options.

Where to from here?

A four week engagement period will be undertaken, commencing with this Community Information Day.

Today you have the opportunity to discuss the proposed options and have any questions about the study and consultation activities answered by representatives from the study team.

Our online survey is now available for you to complete and provide feedback on the proposed new boating facility at Emu Park.

This survey also asks for additional information such as issues, benefits and any possible mitigation measures. This will form part of the Social and Economic Benefits and Impacts Study.

This survey is located on the Get Involved website (www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au) and will be available between Saturday 16 April and Monday 16 May 2016.

Following the Communication Information Day, a number of face-to-face meetings with key stakeholder groups will be held.

The Social and Economic Benefits and Impacts Study is expected to be completed in mid-2016.

Contact information

Phone **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

Email **boatinginfrastructure@tmr.qld.gov.au**

Web **www.tmr.qld.gov.au**

Option 1 – Fisherman’s Beach

This facility would be located at the southern end of Fisherman’s Beach adjacent to Emu Point. The facility will extend approximately 415 metres from the existing park and is positioned to provide all-tide access and sheltered launching.

This option involves:

- Construction of a new two lane boat ramp, floating walkway facing south-west and small breakwater adjacent to the ramp
- 45 car trailer park spaces
- Approximate area of reclamation is 5,000m²
- Road access off existing car park (road length approximately 236m) adjacent to the existing jetty

Estimated cost \$11.4 million



Option 2 – Emu Park

This facility would be located just south of Fisherman’s Beach adjacent to Emu Point, Emu Park. This option is located in naturally deep water between the rocky headlands. A large breakwater is required to provide protection from the prevailing south-easterly winds.

This option involves:

- Construction of a new two lane boat ramp and a floating walkway facing north-east
- Construction of two breakwaters approximately 100m and 150m in length either side of the ramp
- 45 car trailer park spaces
- Parking area reclaimed adjacent to existing car park (approximately reclamation area is 5,200m²)

Estimated cost \$8.6 million

