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Quarantine boating facility moves closer to construction

- The Queensland Government has shortlisted three contractors to help finalise project planning and delivery arrangements before construction of the Quarantine boating facility on Waibene (Thursday Island) begins.
- The new facility will replace the disused boat ramp and rock wall and improve safe, reliable access for recreational, commercial, emergency and inter-island transport users.
- Local subcontractors, suppliers and businesses will have opportunities to meet the shortlisted contractors and discuss potential project work.

The Queensland Government has shortlisted three contractors to help finalise project planning and delivery arrangements before the start of construction of the Quarantine boating facility on Waibene (Thursday Island).

The shortlisted tenderers are SMC Marine, CivilPlus Constructions Pty Ltd and Durack Civil.

This early involvement will allow Maritime Safety Queensland, Torres Shire Council and the contractors to work through construction methods, staging, logistics and delivery risks before a preferred contractor is selected.

Doing this work before construction will help ensure the facility can be delivered safely and effectively in the Torres Strait's remote marine environment, with local needs considered in the final plans.

The new facility will replace the existing disused boat ramp and rock wall, improving safety, access and capacity for recreational, commercial, emergency and inter-island transport users.

Construction is scheduled to start in mid-2027, subject to construction conditions and resource availability.

Delivered by Maritime Safety Queensland in partnership with Torres Shire Council, the project forms part of the Queensland Government's \$40 million Torres Strait Islands Marine Infrastructure Program.

For Torres Strait communities, safer and more reliable access to the 'Blue Highway' supports essential travel for healthcare, education, jobs, supplies, family, culture and traditional activities.

Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager Kell Dillon said the milestone brought the community closer to a safer and more reliable boating facility.

“Bringing contractors in before the final tender stage means we can test the plans against the realities of building marine infrastructure in the Torres Strait and address risks before construction begins,” Mr Dillon said.

“This work will help us deliver a facility that meets local needs and provides safer, more dependable access for people who rely on boats every day.

“It will also create opportunities for local businesses, suppliers and tradespeople to connect with the shortlisted contractors and discuss potential project work.”

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