

Department of Transport and Main Roads
Decision Brief
MBN27474

To: Minister for Transport and Main Roads

SUBJECT: Funding arrangements for training initiatives in the Maritime Sector	URGENT: Your decision is requested by 14 February 2025 , ahead of the 2025 TAFE Academic Year.
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Summary

- In 2019, the Queensland Government undertook a parliamentary inquiry into a sustainable Queensland based intra-state shipping industry, through the 'Maritime Jobs Taskforce'. Following this inquiry, in October 2020 the Queensland Government committed \$21 million to create maritime jobs in a revitalised Queensland shipping industry under the banner of the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs (BQMJ) initiative.
- The Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) branch developed a range of initiatives for BQMJ, including three distinct programs listed below, to support students undertaking mandatory training required to begin work on ships undertaking coastal shipping in Queensland:
 - the Coastal Shipping Grant (CSG)
 - the Maritime Employment Grant (MEG)
 - and the Maritime Training Grant (MTG).
- All three grants programs were initiated between 2022–2023, with a 'second round' of grants programs being run in 2023–2024.
- In 2024, MSQ developed options around the future of the programs and, on 30 September 2024, the former Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services provided in-principle support for options around future funding arrangements to finalise the BQMJ initiative. These options are listed in the background section of this brief.
- Prior to the caretaker period, no funding agreement or contract agreement was in place to support the further rounds of training proposed in option two, therefore no formal contract or agreement is in place around providing funding to Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Queensland for the anticipated two cohorts of future students (capped to 56 study places). Similarly, there are no signed agreements for any further proposed initiatives (options three and four).
- Based on decisions made by the former Minister prior to the caretaker period, MSQ will honour existing agreements, with no new funding agreements entered into. In December 2024, the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) met with Mr Kell Dillon, General Manager, MSQ, to seek a commitment on delivery of all programs, including those where no agreement is currently in place. Mr Dillon stated he would be guided by the new government in due course on the future of the program and gave no further commitments or commentary on the future of the program.

Endorsed by:
Kell Dillon
General Manager
Maritime Safety Queensland
Tel: 3066 3977
Date: 07/01/2025

Endorsed by: DDG
Joanna Robinson
A/Deputy Director-General
Customer Services, Safety & Regulation Division
Tel: 3066 2692
Date: 10/02/2025

Endorsed by: DG
Sally Stannard
Director-General
Tel: 3066 7316
Date: 12/02/2025

Recommendations

- That you approve:
 - MSQ to not extend further funding to students undertaking the Integrated Ratings (IR) course at TAFE Queensland in Cairns. In doing so, MSQ will be acting in accordance with the Queensland Government's stated position prior to the caretaker period, to only support those ongoing initiatives and programs that were under a contract or formal agreement
 - that all existing contracts entered into between MSQ and third parties under other initiatives remain in place, but that no further programs of work supporting the former government's 2020 election commitments are delivered.
- Your decision is requested by 14 February 2025, ahead of the 2025 TAFE academic year.

Background

- To deliver the government's 2020 'to create maritime jobs in a revitalised Queensland shipping industry under the banner of the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs (BQMJ) initiative', MSQ developed a range of initiatives which included the three programs (CSG, MEG, and MTG) to increase employment opportunities and training for Queensland mariners. The broader commitment saw MSQ partner with industry to:
 - deliver increased maritime employment, potentially through establishing new coastal shipping services or other innovative approaches
 - create increased maritime employment for the Queensland workforce with existing operators in Queensland
 - address skill shortages and create opportunities for seafarers to grow skills.
- BQMJ initiatives support the establishment of a coastal shipping service through the following:
 - subsidising skill development and training courses
 - maritime jobs to gain sea time and practical experience
 - creating shipping cadetships
 - other costs associated with implementing the program.
- The BQMJ program successfully entered into more than 50 funding agreements for training, port cadetships, maritime employment, and coastal shipping activities. BQMJ resulted in:
 - two new coastal shipping services
 - a specialist training facility to deliver essential lifeboat training and re-accreditation, gifted to TAFE Queensland
 - a new approved IR course with 24 successful graduates
 - 17 mariners successfully completing deck and engineering qualifications
 - eight cadets/trainees employed in the maritime industry and Queensland Ports
 - 10 ongoing funding agreements, committing funding of \$3.5 million to Financial Year 2025/26
- The BQMJ program was very closely overseen by independent probity auditors, attaining excellent feedback.
- After the delivery of the initial tranche of initiatives, significant funds were still available in the BQMJ program. MSQ provided a number of options on how those funds could be sustainably used within the boundaries and scope of the BQMJ program to increase employment and training development in the maritime industry.

- Immediately prior to caretaker provisions commencing, the future options (listed below) were provided in-principle support by the former Minister to finalise the BQMJ initiative:
 - **Option one:** a revised MTG program funding approach which would provide retrospective funding to TAFE Queensland in Cairns for the course fees associated with the initial cohort of students undertaking the newly developed IR course, and for MSQ to fund a second intake of student's course fees when the course is undertaken
 - **Option two:** funding course fees for another two training cohorts each year for two years (beyond the initial two courses) detailed in option one
 - **Option three:** providing funding under the MTG to the Department of Employment Small Business and Training and TAFE Queensland to develop a marine engineers course
 - **Option four:** amending funding guidelines for the MEG to include subsidising the employment of on water coastal shipping employees for a period of two years, to a maximum of \$100,000 per employee, per annum for a maximum of two years. Funding pre-requisites include the employee successfully completing an IR course and accruing sea time on an appropriate ship.

Key Issues

- On 30 September 2024, a statement was released by Mr Michael Healy MP, Member for Cairns on his *Facebook* page announcing a \$15 million commitment to supporting the state's maritime industry by delivering jobs; world class skills; and securing Queensland a place as a world class leader in the global maritime sector. This statement is being cited by the MUA as a document supporting the continuance of the program.
- MSQ is not aware if a government agency assisted with the preparation of that release.
- Crucially, the only agreement in place prior to the 2024 caretaker period was around providing retrospective funding to TAFE Queensland in Cairns for the fees associated with the initial cohort and the second in-take cohort of students' course fees for the IR Course (option one). As a formal agreement was in place, MSQ has remitted funds to TAFE for the provision of those two courses.
- On 5 December 2024, TAFE Queensland contacted MSQ requesting feedback on whether MSQ would provide further funding for IR trainees in 2025, citing a proposed agreement with the MUA.
- In response, MSQ advised that they are not aware of any agreement with the MUA, with MSQ having no agreements with the MUA, or any other union, as part of the BQMJ initiative.
- MSQ also advised that the maritime training initiative was part of the former government's election commitments and internal TMR's advice was that only those activities that are currently committed under a funding agreement/contract could continue, with no new funding agreements entered into.
- On 11 December 2024, Mr Paul Gallagher, Assistant Branch Secretary, MUA emailed Mr Dillon, requesting that funding be released for the next cohort of 14 IR trainees who are enrolling with TAFE Queensland for the first course of 2025. Mr Dillon had Mr Peter Wilkins, Executive Director, Policy Planning and Regulation, MSQ, reply on his behalf, advising the matter was being discussed with TAFE.
- On 17 December 2024, at the request of MUA, a meeting was held between representatives of MUA, Mr Dillon and Mr Wilkins, to query MSQ's potential support for the continued commitment to the previous government's election commitment.
- Mr Dillon advised that a brief is prepared for your consideration, with a decision of the future of the program to be made by you. It was also stated that MSQ has honoured its commitments to date and will continue to honour agreements or contracts currently signed and in place. The MUA representatives stated they would be seeking a meeting with you. The meeting was concluded with no further comment from MSQ.

Financial Implications

- There is no funding agreement in place to support the additional sponsorship of 56 student course fees (being 14 students per in-take for two years).
- Should the Queensland Government wish to fund these courses, the cost is estimated between \$400,000–\$500,000, depending on concessional eligibility of each individual student.

Consideration of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HR Act)

- The HR Act was considered when making the recommendations outlined in this brief, and there are no impacts to human rights.

Consultation with Stakeholders

- MSQ has advised the MUA and TAFE Queensland that TMR has funded all existing agreed initiatives covered by a funding agreement.

Employment

- The proposed financial support for organisations to employ staff and support them through their studies will only provide short term employment opportunities. In the longer term, the proposal aims to provide an increased pool of licensed mariners allowing support to operators of Queensland based registered Australian vessels.

Media

- No media release is provided to support this brief is proposed.

Summary of Actions

- That you approve:
 - MSQ to not extend further funding to students undertaking the IR course at TAFE Queensland in Cairns. In doing so, MSQ will be acting in accordance with the Queensland Government's stated position prior to the caretaker period, to only support those ongoing initiatives and programs that were under a contract or formal agreement.
 - that all existing contracts entered into between MSQ and third parties under other initiatives remain in place, but that no further programs of work supporting the former government's 2020 election commitment are delivered.
- Your decision is requested by 14 February 2025, ahead of the 2025 TAFE academic year.

Minister's comments:

Approved / Not Approved

Minister's signature..... 

Date 19 / 2 / 25

From: [DG-Corro](#)
To: [Ministerial.Parliament](#)
Cc: [DG-Corro](#)
Subject: FW: Resubmitted Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege
Date: Monday, 23 September 2024 1:27:41 PM

Good afternoon,

Please see below DG endorsement.

Kind regards,

Luke D Gardener
A/Administration Officer
Office of the Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 3066 6003
Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001
luke.d.gardener@tmr.qld.gov.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au



.....
The Department of Transport and Main Roads acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways.
We also acknowledge their ancestors and Elders both past and present.
The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to reconciliation among all Australians.
.....

From: Sally Z Stannard <Sally.Stannard@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 12:50 PM
To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Resubmitted Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Approved, noting legal advice and recommendations from the team.

Kind regards

Sally Stannard
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 3066 7316
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From: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 10:01 AM

To: Sally Z Stannard <Sally.Stannard@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Resubmitted Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346
- For DG consideration Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Importance: High

DG,

For your consideration.

Kind regards,

Anne Moffat

Chief Operations Officer

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

P: (07) 3066 7112 M: Not relevant

E: anne.e.moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au | W: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Ministerial.Parliament <Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 9:38 AM

To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Resubmitted Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For
DG consideration Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Importance: High

Hi Anne

Subject to Legal Professional Privilege

Resubmitted for DG's consideration a departmental decision brief and a ministerial advice brief regarding Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Urgency reason: The Minister has requested that a review is finalised and decision be made by the DG by 20/9. Decision is required by ASAP to notify applicants in due course.

Please note, DBN20666 and MBN27346 are to travel together.

Once the content is considered, please email to Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Kind regards Karmy

Kamala Brooks

Senior Advisor (Ministerial and Parliamentary Support)
Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
Governance Branch | Corporate Division

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 5 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

(07) 3066 7519

E: kamala.a.brooks@tmr.qld.gov.au W: CLES Connection Hub

From: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 6:08 PM

To: Ministerial.Parliament <Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Part Exempt
Sch.3(7) Legal
Professional
Privilege

Holding for DG Sally - GM is aware. And DDG

Anne Moffat

Chief Operations Officer

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

P: (07) 3066 7112 M: Not relevant

E: anne.e.moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au | W: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Ministerial.Parliament <Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 4:17:07 PM

To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>

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Part Exempt
Sch.3(7) Legal
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Kind regards,

Kinny Lo-Keller

Acting Assistant Advisor (Ministerial and Parliament Services)

Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services

Governance Branch | Corporate Division

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 5 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

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Released under RTI - DTMR

Pages 9 through 18 redacted for the following reasons:

Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

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From: Anne E Moffat
To: Sally Z Stannard
Cc: DG-Corro
Subject: FW: Resubmitted Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege
Date: Monday, 23 September 2024 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: DBN20666 and MBN27346 Combined.pdf
Importance: High

DG,

For your consideration.

Kind regards,

Anne Moffat

Chief Operations Officer

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

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Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Importance: High

Hi Anne

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Part Exempt Sch.3(7)
Legal Professional
Privilege

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Kind regards Karmy

Kamala Brooks
Senior Advisor (Ministerial and Parliamentary Support)
Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads
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Subject: Re: Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For DG consideration

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Holding for DG Sally - GM is aware. And DDG

Anne Moffat
Chief Operations Officer
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Subject: Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For DG consideration

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Good afternoon Anne

Subject to Legal Professional Privilege

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Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Urgency reason: The Minister has requested that a review is finalised and decision be made by the DG by 20/9. Decision is required by 20 September 2024 to notify applicants in due course.

Please note, DBN20666 and MBN27346 are to travel together.

Once the content is considered, please email to Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Kinny Lo-Keller

Acting Assistant Advisor (Ministerial and Parliament Services)
Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Pages 22 through 28 redacted for the following reasons:

Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Released under RTI - DTMR

From: [Anne E Moffat](#)
To: [Kell J Dillon](#); [Geoffrey J Magoffin](#)
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege
Date: Friday, 20 September 2024 5:24:18 PM
Attachments: DBN20666_Combined.pdf
MBN27346_Advice.pdf

I want to keep this for Sally

Anne Moffat

Chief Operations Officer
Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

P: (07) 3066 7112 M: Not relevant

E: anne.e.moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au | W: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

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To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Urgent: Subject to Legal Professional Privilege - DBN20666 and MBN27346 - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Good afternoon Anne

Subject to Legal Professional Privilege

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Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

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Once the content is considered, please email to Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Kinny Lo-Keller

Acting Assistant Advisor (Ministerial and Parliament Services)
Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services

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Released under RTI - DTMR

Pages 31 through 41 redacted for the following reasons:

Exempt Sch.3(4) Briefing for incoming Minister
Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Released under RTI - DTMR

From: [Anne E Moffat](#)
To: [Sally Z Stannard](#)
Cc: [DG-Corro](#)
Subject: FW: Urgent - For DG endorsement please - MBN27351 - Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector
Date: Thursday, 26 September 2024 10:46:00 AM
Attachments: MBN27351_combined.pdf
Importance: High

DG,

For your consideration.
I am aware MO are chasing this brief.

Kind regards,

Anne Moffat
Chief Operations Officer
Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

P: (07) 3066 7112 M: Not relevant
E: anne.e.moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au | W: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Ministerial.Parliament <Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 10:33 AM
To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Urgent - For DG endorsement please - MBN27351 - Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector

Good morning Anne,

Please find attached for DG endorsement – MBN27351 – Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector.

Urgency reason: The Minister's office has requested that a proposal be submitted by 26 September 2024, as a result of MBN27346.

Although requested by MO, please advise if you want to progress this once DG considered.

Once content has been considered, please email Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au

Thank you.

Kind Regards

Kelly Wicks
Assistant Advisor

Ministerial and Parliamentary Support | Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
Governance Branch | Corporate Division | Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 5, 61 Mary Street, Brisbane Qld 4000 | GPO Box 1549, Brisbane Qld 4001
[\(07\) 306 67094](tel:(07)30667094) | kelly.l.wicks@tmr.qld.gov.au | [CLEES Connection Hub](#) | [MPS Yammer Group](#)

Released under RTI - DTMR

Department of Transport and Main Roads
Decision Brief
MBN27351

To: Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

<p>SUBJECT: Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector</p>	<p>URGENT: You requested that a proposal be submitted by 26 September 2024.</p>
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Summary

- In response to MBN27346 you requested “the Department develop options around funding appropriate training Programs and initiatives the Queensland Maritime Sector could benefit from the Government current financial commitment”.
- Having reviewed the program and examining potential options to satisfy your guidance in response to MBN27346, the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) branch recommends the implementation of a program similar to the previous Maritime Employment Grant Program (MEGP), which if approved, will provide a combination of training and employment to enable successful participants to secure ongoing employment in the maritime sector. Such a program would not only support Queensland coastal shipping services, but also provide a more robust workforce to support the impending Commonwealth Governments Strategic Fleet initiative.
- Consideration could also be given to provide extra funding to TAFE Queensland (TAFE) to develop a Queensland based training course, that would provide similar pathways for Marine Engineers. The development of the course is based on, and would augment, the successful development of the Integrated Ratings (IR) course by TAFE - funded under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs program.
- The Department of Employment Small Business and Training (DESBT) is also preparing options for the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, and it is understood that DESBT officers favour proposals related to fee gap funding for IR courses. MSQ supports this initiative, however MSQ considers that the DESBT proposals could be greatly enhanced by the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs (BQMJ) employment grants program also supporting the required sea time to gain full IR qualifications to provide the required material benefits of entry and/ or support the manning of Registered Australian Vessels (RAV) in the future.
- MSQ also understands DESBT have proposed maritime industry solutions and Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) funding for TAFE’s Maritime Emergency Rescue Training Simulator (MERTS). CAPEX funding is not supported by MSQ as it does not accord with the intentions and outcomes of the BQMJ program. MSQ already operates a maritime training full mission simulator in Brisbane. However, MSQ would support the development of training courses for the MERTS facility.
- Any change to BQMJ program funds will need to be communicated with Queensland Treasury, in addition to notification of the change of direction from funding coastal shipping proposals.
- Based on TMR’s proposals and the recommendations of this brief, a draft media release has been prepared, subject to consideration.

<p>Action Officer: Peter Wilkins Executive Director (PPR), Maritime Safety Queensland Tel: 3066 4069 Date: 25/09/2024</p>	<p>Endorsed by: Kell Dillon General Manager Maritime Safety Queensland Tel: 3066 3977 Date: 25/09/2024</p>	<p>Endorsed by: DDG Geoff Magoffin Deputy Director-General Customer Services, Safety & Regulation Tel: 3066 5100 Date: 25/09/2024</p>	<p>Endorsed by: DG Sally Stannard Director-General Tel: 3066 7316 Date:</p>
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Recommendations

- That you approve:
 - the amendment to the Maritime Training Grants Program (MTGP) under BQMJ, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Queensland Cairns, for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed IR course (MAR30220) and for MSQ to fund the second intake of students' course fees when this course is undertaken
 - the course fees for another two training cohorts beyond the initial two courses detailed above (on the basis of 28 students per year for two years)
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 - funding to DESBT and TAFE Queensland for the development of Marine Engineers course, to fill a gap in training opportunities for Queensland Mariners and create a genuine pathway for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) based sea-farer progression
 - that in conjunction with the MEGP, funding be provided to TAFE Cairns for an additional instructor to be appointed to deliver the IR course for two years
 - MSQ to research and develop additional support that is consistent with the approved recommendations detailed above, if funding is available after the implementation of these initiatives.

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- At your request, MBN27346 provided advice on Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege
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- In response to MBN27346 you requested advice on training opportunities that could benefit Queensland Maritime sector. Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege there is approximately \$13.7 million unallocated in the BQMJ election initiative.
- While Round one of the CSGP allocated funds towards some domestic commercial vessels (DCV) operators and their crew training, Round two specifically targeted RAV operators. This brief proposes initiatives to support Round two CSGP tenet, by providing training and employment opportunities that support qualified crewing of RAVs.
- As an immediate initiative, MBN27217 proposed for MSQ to provide funding to TAFE Cairns to support course fees for the first two cohorts of students undertaking the newly developed IR course. In that brief, the funding was proposed to be capped at 40 students per cohort, with approximately \$6800 allocated per person. Under this proposal, TAFE Queensland will deliver the educational services, monitor students' progress and completion. Since this brief was created TAFE Cairns has commenced the course with a limit of 14 per cohort. Funding the first two full cohorts would cost just over \$370,000.

Key Issues

- Qualifications in the maritime sector are often contingent on training and practical experience in an active sea-going role. This entails candidates being able to access sea time opportunities. Therefore, the inherent risk of any program that does not adequately address or include sea time is that TAFE qualifications alone could be seen only part of the solution to gaining meaningful employment, until they can access sea time opportunities, which will enable them to become certified as anIR.
- While the BQMJ MTGP has focussed on skills development, it was based on providing opportunities for organisations to upskill existing employees, but due to applicant demand was only delivered on operators of DCV vessels. Under the MTGP program 29 training grants have been awarded. To date 14 courses have been completed, (four Certificate IV in Marine Operations (MED1) and 10 Certificate IV in Marine Operations (Master <45), while four offers have been rescinded.
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TMR's proposal

- To provide sustainable career opportunities TMR proposes the following:

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- It is recommended that the MEGP be modified to allow for sponsorship of trainees extending to sea time/employment, training, travel, and accommodation for Certificate III in Maritime Operations (IR). Sea time/employment may vary between one to two years depending on the organisation's vessel operations.
- To ensure that industry shows sufficient interest, sponsorship should be capped at around \$200,000 (total) per person over the two years. TMR does not believe such sea time support or investment by organisations would be feasible if near full wages were not funded. It should be noted, however that this approach may cause precedent issues for TAFE/DESBT as their subsidies for other programs are substantially lower.
- To facilitate this, MSQ would release an expression of interest for organisations operating RAVs, with funding capped at \$100,000 per student placement per year.
- To correspond with the IR course limits, the costs of the program for two intakes of 14 students would be \$2.8 million per intake. MSQ's costs to administer and manage is estimated at \$300,000 per year for four years totalling an additional \$1.2 million.
- DESBT have advised funding of \$200,000 would be required to deal with any increased demand for the delivery of additional courses, in the form of an additional instructor. The four year cost to DESBT would be \$800,000.
- Implementing this approach will require some amendments to the current program and guidelines but it is envisaged these would not require a material amount of work and could be done relatively quickly, possibly within two months of approval of this approach.
- If lower uptake than projected results in remaining funds available, a third program could be undertaken. The total anticipated costs of the above approach would require \$7.8 million to be spent across the next four years.

Delivery of Current and upcoming IR course in Cairns

- MSQ to provide the funds to TAFE Cairns to support course fees for the first two cohorts of students undertaking the newly developed IRcourse. TAFE Queensland has advised that the IR course has a maximum class size of 14 students in each cohort.

- The BQMJ Initiative fully funding these two cohorts of the IR course enrolments would cost \$370,000. If the differential between the payment and the subsidy was funded, then the cost would only be \$112,000.
- This proposal would be doubled if MSQ also funds Courses three and four in concurrent years

Development of marine engineering course to crewing of RAVs

- As part of TMR's proposal, MSQ could fund TAFE Queensland to enhance maritime training opportunities, such as developing a Queensland Based Diploma of Marine Operations (Marine Engineering Class three Near Coastal) or other relevant qualifications. This builds on the successful IR course development.
- It is envisaged that TAFE Queensland would likely seek around \$2 million to fund the development of this course. Similar to the IR course, development of a marine engineering course will allow Queenslanders to access this course in Queensland. Once developed, TAFE could deliver the course across the state, not just in Cairns.

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- Funding of \$10.7 million allocated under the BQMJ program will be redirected from CSGP, to support and fund the initiatives outlined under TMR's proposal.
- MSQ has no allocated resources to run or administer the program. The existing program has been run internally repositioning resources and detracting from other maritime safety reforms. If MSQ are to pursue and administer this proposal, in addition to the funding detailed above, MSQ will require an extra two full-time equivalent to deliver on the program.

Consideration of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HR Act)

- The HR Act was considered when making the recommendations outlined in this brief, and there are no impacts to human rights.

Consultation with Stakeholders

- Some consultation was undertaken with DESBT, however based on MSQ officers' experience in managing the program and marine industry feedback, there is a difference of opinion around which specific initiatives that would best provide sustainable support and enhancements and result in jobs to Queenslanders.

Employment

- If approved, the proposed financial support for organisations to employ staff and support them through their studies will provide short term employment opportunities. In the longer term the proposal provides an increased pool of licensed mariners that can support operators of Queensland based RAVs.

Media

- A draft media statement has been prepared supporting this brief (refer **Attachment 1**), which the Minister could be use at their discretion or as a basis for joint release.

Election Commitments

- This matter relates to the BQMJI election commitment.

Government Objectives

- This brief aligns with the government objective of: better jobs.

Summary of Actions

- That you approve:

- the amendment to the Maritime Training Grants Program (MTGP) under BQMJ, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Queensland Cairns, for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed IR course (MAR30220) and for MSQ to fund the second intake of students' course fees when this course is undertaken
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Minister's comments:

Approved / Not Approved

Minister's signature.....

Date/...../.....

MEDIA STATEMENT

Subject	Queensland awash with opportunity for maritime industry training		
Due date (expiry date for release or embargo date)		Media Release (MR) number	
Written by	Leith Knight A/Manager (Media & Communications) MSQ Date	Approved by	Name Position Division/Region Date
For release by	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport and Main Roads Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Department	Media and Issues contact	
Background			
Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Government <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government - Has federal approval been received for release of media statement? Yes/No <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Council		
Impacted stakeholders	Maritime industry, Cairns Great Barrier Reef International Marine College.		
Electorate/s	Cairns (State); Leichardt (Federal)		

VISUAL ASSETS – Required for all media opportunities

Have visual assets been provided with statement?

- Photos (If not, please contact TMR Graphic Design to arrange photography)
- Concept images
- Project designs
- Video/VNR/Drone (If not, please contact TMR Graphic Design to arrange)
- Fly-through animations

SOCIAL MEDIA PITCH (also send to social.media@tmr.qld.gov.au)

- Facebook
- Twitter
- LinkedIn

• **Social Media proposed copy content:**• **Social Media tags**

[date]

Queensland is awash with opportunity for maritime industry training

- Maritime Safety Queensland will spend \$10.7 million creating training and sea placement opportunities to create new, job-ready seafarers.
- The funding will cover course fees for a newly-created Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Integrated Rating) over the next four years, for an additional instructor at TAFE Cairns to deliver Integrated Ratings courses and, importantly, access to sea time.

- MSQ, joining forces with TAFE Queensland, will create maritime jobs and training opportunities for up to 28 new employees over the next four years.
- The Government has committed \$2 million to funding the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) to develop a Marine Engineer Class 3 (near coastal) course in Queensland.
- MSQ has already facilitated the installation of a lifeboat and davit facility in Cairns to assist with students' training needs.

Maritime Safety Queensland is joining with partners TAFE Queensland and the maritime industry in a \$10.7 million commitment to kick-start maritime careers.

The Maritime Employment Grant Program will provide funding for up to 2 years, capped at \$100,000 per year for each new employee, to help eligible maritime organisations offset employment costs and provide the additional supervision required to mentor students and ensure their sea time requirement to receive their qualification is met.

As a part of the State Government's \$21 million Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiative, the injection of funds will enable TAFE to provide training for up to 28 students over four years while assisting industry to provide them with essential sea time.

The government has proven its commitment to the maritime sector, with the recently rolled out Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Integrated Rating) by TAFE Cairns enabling Queenslanders to gain the entry-level international maritime industry course without leaving the state.

A newly-installed lifeboat and davit (boat crane) at MSQ's Cairns base enables TAFE to run all aspects of the required course components, delivering new opportunities for entry into the maritime sector.

Previously the course was available only in Launceston, Newcastle and Fremantle within Australia.

The lifeboat and davit facility installed at MSQ's marine operations base was donated by the Royal Australian Navy and the Maritime Union of Australia, and was delivered as part of a partnership between MSQ, QBuild and TAFE Queensland for the Cairns Great Barrier Reef International Marine College.

Quotes attributable to the Transport and Main Roads Minister Bart Mellish:

"This announcement reaffirms the Queensland Government's commitment for training of Queensland mariners and providing sustainable employment in the maritime sector for Queensland seafarers.

"This new initiative will deliver a new generation of highly trained maritime professionals ready to take on essential roles in Queensland's maritime sector.

"The establishment of these facilities and the roll out of the IR course is a history-making first for maritime training in Queensland – Queenslanders will no longer have to travel interstate to get this entry-level training.

"Travelling to interstate centres was a big cost for any Queenslanders wanting to enter the industry, so having this available in Cairns is a huge win for young Queenslanders wanting to have careers at sea.

"The development of a MED course will build on the success of the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs initiative and create new pathways for entry and progression for seafarers.

“Working with marine industry employers the Queensland Government is funding much needed sea time to meet qualification requirements.

“The davit and lifeboat installation will enable practical, hands-on training for Queensland students – and will get them certified to work on international merchant shipping.

Explainer/fast fact and or further information (when required/relevant):

The facility at MSQ’s Cairns base has enabled TAFE Queensland to run the entry-level Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Integrated Rating) in Queensland.

The Queensland Government announced in 2020 funding of \$21 million Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiative.

Sea time is an essential component to meet qualification requirements.

Currently few opportunities are available for newcomers and so is often a barrier to the successful attainment of qualifications. This initiatives specifically addresses those barriers and provides support for IR course students to complete their sea time.

ENDS

Media contact – Minister Mellish office

Released under RTI-DTMR

From: Peter Y Brown
To: Anne E Moffat
Subject: FW: Urgent - For DG endorsement please - MBN27351 - Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector
Date: Thursday, 26 September 2024 10:41:12 AM
Attachments: MBN27351_combined.pdf

Morning – I know Sally is not about just at the moment, however CoS has called about the attached, chasing. Just wondering if it can be moved through under DDG or flagged please.

Regards

Peter

Peter Brown

Director and CLLO | Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services

Governance Branch | Corporate Division | **Department of Transport and Main Roads**

(07) 306 67044 | Not relevant | peter.y.brown@tmr.qld.gov.au | [CLES Connection Hub](#)

This email and any attachments may contain Cabinet-related information. The unlawful disclosure or retention of Cabinet-related information may constitute an offence under the *Criminal Code*, corrupt behaviour under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and may constitute official misconduct under the *Public Service Act 2008*. Encouraging or directing another person to do these things may also be an offence.

From: Ministerial.Parliament

Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 10:33 AM

To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Urgent - For DG endorsement please - MBN27351 - Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector

Good morning Anne,

Please find attached for DG endorsement – MBN27351 – Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector.

Urgency reason: The Minister's office has requested that a proposal be submitted by 26 September 2024, as a result of MBN27346.

Although requested by iMO, please advise if you want to progress this once DG considered.

Once content has been considered, please email Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au

Thank you

Kind Regards

Kelly Wicks

Assistant Advisor

Ministerial and Parliamentary Support | Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services

Governance Branch | Corporate Division | **Department of Transport and Main Roads**

Floor 5, 61 Mary Street, Brisbane Qld 4000 | GPO Box 1549, Brisbane Qld 4001

(07) 306 67094 | kelly.l.wicks@tmr.qld.gov.au | [CLES Connection Hub](#) | [MPS Yammer Group](#)

Department of Transport and Main Roads
Decision Brief
MBN27351

To: Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

<p>SUBJECT: Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector</p>	<p>URGENT: You requested that a proposal be submitted by 26 September 2024.</p>
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Summary

- In response to MBN27346 you requested “*the Department develop options around funding appropriate training Programs and initiatives the Queensland Maritime Sector could benefit from the Government current financial commitment*”.
- Having reviewed the program and examining potential options to satisfy your guidance in response to MBN27346, the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) branch recommends the implementation of a program similar to the previous Maritime Employment Grant Program (MEGP), which if approved, will provide a combination of training and employment to enable successful participants to secure ongoing employment in the maritime sector. Such a program would not only support Queensland coastal shipping services, but also provide a more robust workforce to support the impending Commonwealth Governments Strategic Fleet initiative.
- Consideration could also be given to provide extra funding to TAFE Queensland (TAFE) to develop a Queensland based training course, that would provide similar pathways for Marine Engineers. The development of the course is based on, and would augment, the successful development of the Integrated Ratings (IR) course by TAFE - funded under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs program.
- The Department of Employment Small Business and Training (DESBT) is also preparing options for the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, and it is understood that DESBT officers favour proposals related to fee gap funding for IR courses. MSQ supports this initiative, however MSQ considers that the DESBT proposals could be greatly enhanced by the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs (BQMJ) employment grants program also supporting the required sea time to gain full IR qualifications to provide the required material benefits of entry and/ or support the manning of Registered Australian Vessels (RAV) in the future.
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Recommendations

- That you approve:
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- The HR Act was considered when making the recommendations outlined in this brief, and there are no impacts to human rights.

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Minister's comments:

Approved / Not Approved

Minister's signature.....

Date/...../.....

MEDIA STATEMENT

Subject	Queensland awash with opportunity for maritime industry training		
Due date (expiry date for release or embargo date)		Media Release (MR) number	
Written by	Leith Knight A/Manager (Media & Communications) MSQ Date	Approved by	Name Position Division/Region Date
For release by	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport and Main Roads Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Department	Media and Issues contact	
Background			
Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Government <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government - Has federal approval been received for release of media statement? Yes/No <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Council		
Impacted stakeholders	Maritime industry, Cairns Great Barrier Reef International Marine College.		
Electorate/s	Cairns (State); Leichardt (Federal)		

VISUAL ASSETS – Required for all media opportunities

Have visual assets been provided with statement?

- Photos (If not, please contact TMR Graphic Design to arrange photography)
- Concept images
- Project designs
- Video/VNR/Drone (If not, please contact TMR Graphic Design to arrange)
- Fly-through animations

SOCIAL MEDIA PITCH (also send to social.media@tmr.qld.gov.au)

- Facebook
- Twitter
- LinkedIn

• **Social Media proposed copy content:**• **Social Media tags**

[date]

Queensland is awash with opportunity for maritime industry training

- Maritime Safety Queensland will spend \$10.7 million creating training and sea placement opportunities to create new, job-ready seafarers.
- The funding will cover course fees for a newly-created Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Integrated Rating) over the next four years, for an additional instructor at TAFE Cairns to deliver Integrated Ratings courses and, importantly, access to sea time.

- MSQ, joining forces with TAFE Queensland, will create maritime jobs and training opportunities for up to 28 new employees over the next four years.
- The Government has committed \$2 million to funding the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) to develop a Marine Engineer Class 3 (near coastal) course in Queensland.
- MSQ has already facilitated the installation of a lifeboat and davit facility in Cairns to assist with students' training needs.

Maritime Safety Queensland is joining with partners TAFE Queensland and the maritime industry in a \$10.7 million commitment to kick-start maritime careers.

The Maritime Employment Grant Program will provide funding for up to 2 years, capped at \$100,000 per year for each new employee, to help eligible maritime organisations offset employment costs and provide the additional supervision required to mentor students and ensure their sea time requirement to receive their qualification is met.

As a part of the State Government's \$21 million Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiative, the injection of funds will enable TAFE to provide training for up to 28 students over four years while assisting industry to provide them with essential sea time.

The government has proven its commitment to the maritime sector, with the recently rolled out Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Integrated Rating) by TAFE Cairns enabling Queenslanders to gain the entry-level international maritime industry course without leaving the state.

A newly-installed lifeboat and davit (boat crane) at MSQ's Cairns base enables TAFE to run all aspects of the required course components, delivering new opportunities for entry into the maritime sector.

Previously the course was available only in Launceston, Newcastle and Fremantle within Australia.

The lifeboat and davit facility installed at MSQ's marine operations base was donated by the Royal Australian Navy and the Maritime Union of Australia, and was delivered as part of a partnership between MSQ, QBuild and TAFE Queensland for the Cairns Great Barrier Reef International Marine College.

Quotes attributable to the Transport and Main Roads Minister Bart Mellish:

"This announcement reaffirms the Queensland Government's commitment for training of Queensland mariners and providing sustainable employment in the maritime sector for Queensland seafarers.

"This new initiative will deliver a new generation of highly trained maritime professionals ready to take on essential roles in Queensland's maritime sector.

"The establishment of these facilities and the roll out of the IR course is a history-making first for maritime training in Queensland – Queenslanders will no longer have to travel interstate to get this entry-level training.

"Travelling to interstate centres was a big cost for any Queenslanders wanting to enter the industry, so having this available in Cairns is a huge win for young Queenslanders wanting to have careers at sea.

"The development of a MED course will build on the success of the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs initiative and create new pathways for entry and progression for seafarers.

“Working with marine industry employers the Queensland Government is funding much needed sea time to meet qualification requirements.

“The davit and lifeboat installation will enable practical, hands-on training for Queensland students – and will get them certified to work on international merchant shipping.

Explainer/fast fact and or further information (when required/relevant):

The facility at MSQ’s Cairns base has enabled TAFE Queensland to run the entry-level Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Integrated Rating) in Queensland.

The Queensland Government announced in 2020 funding of \$21 million Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiative.

Sea time is an essential component to meet qualification requirements.

Currently few opportunities are available for newcomers and so is often a barrier to the successful attainment of qualifications. This initiatives specifically addresses those barriers and provides support for IR course students to complete their sea time.

ENDS

Media contact – Minister Mellish office

Released under RTI-DTMR

Department of Transport and Main Roads
Decision Brief
MBN27351

To: Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

<p>SUBJECT: Options to fund training initiatives in the Maritime Sector</p>	<p>URGENT: You requested that a proposal be submitted by 26 September 2024.</p>
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Summary

- In response to MBN27346 you requested “the Department develop options around funding appropriate training Programs and initiatives the Queensland Maritime Sector could benefit from the Government current financial commitment”.
- Having reviewed the program and examining potential options to satisfy your guidance in response to MBN27346, the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) branch recommends the implementation of a program similar to the previous Maritime Employment Grant Program (MEGP), which if approved, will provide a combination of training and employment to enable successful participants to secure ongoing employment in the maritime sector. Such a program would not only support Queensland coastal shipping services, but also provide a more robust workforce to support the impending Commonwealth Government’s Strategic Fleet initiative.
- Consideration could also be given to provide extra funding to TAFE Queensland (TAFE) to develop a Queensland based training course, that would provide similar pathways for Marine Engineers. The development of the course is based on, and would augment, the successful development of the Integrated Ratings (IR) course by TAFE - funded under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs program.
- The Department of Employment Small Business and Training (DESBT) is also preparing options for the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, and it is understood that DESBT officers favour proposals related to fee gap funding for IR courses. MSQ supports this initiative, however MSQ considers that the DESBT proposals could be greatly enhanced by the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs (BQMJ) employment grants program also supporting the required sea time to gain full IR qualifications to provide the required material benefits of entry and/ or support the manning of Registered Australian Vessels (RAV) in the future.
- MSQ also understands DESBT have proposed maritime industry solutions and Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) funding for TAFE’s Maritime Emergency Rescue Training Simulator (MERTS). CAPEX funding is not supported by MSQ as it does not accord with the intentions and outcomes of the BQMJ program. MSQ already operates a maritime training full mission simulator in Brisbane. However, MSQ would support the development of training courses for the MERTS facility.
- Any change to BQMJ program funds will need to be communicated with Queensland Treasury, in addition to notification of the change of direction from funding coastal shipping proposals.
- Based on TMR’s proposals and the recommendations of this brief, a draft media release has been prepared, subject to consideration.

<p>Action Officer: Peter Wilkins Executive Director (PPR), Maritime Safety Queensland Tel: 3066 4069 Date: 25/09/2024</p>	<p>Endorsed by: Kell Dillon General Manager Maritime Safety Queensland Tel: 3066 3977 Date: 25/09/2024</p>	<p>Endorsed by: DDG Geoff Magoffin Deputy Director-General Customer Services, Safety & Regulation Tel: 3066 5100 Date: 25/09/2024</p>	<p>Endorsed by: DG Sally Stannard Director-General Tel: 3066 7316 Date: 26/09/2024</p>
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Recommendations

- That you approve:
 - the amendment to the Maritime Training Grants Program (MTGP) under BQMJ, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Queensland Cairns, for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed IR course (MAR30220) and for MSQ to fund the second intake of students' course fees when this course is undertaken
 - the course fees for another two training cohorts beyond the initial two courses detailed above (on the basis of 28 students per year for two years)
 - the current MEGP be amended to fund the employment of candidates in sea-going roles, to compliment the candidates undertaking the IR training at Cairns TAFE and retaining the other requirements of the MEGP. This will ensure that sea time course requirements are met and full qualifications are gained. The broad parameters of the program would entail funding for up to two years at \$100,000 per annum for a maximum of two years per candidate. Attendance and successful completion of the IR course and achievements of core sea time competencies will be key elements required for the release of funds
 - funding to DESBT and TAFE Queensland for the development of Marine Engineers course, to fill a gap in training opportunities for Queensland Mariners and create a genuine pathway for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) based sea-farer progression
 - that in conjunction with the MEGP, funding be provided to TAFE Cairns for an additional instructor to be appointed to deliver the IR course for two years
 - MSQ to research and develop additional support that is consistent with the approved recommendations detailed above, if funding is available after the implementation of these initiatives.

Background

- At your request, MBN27346 provided
Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege
-
- In response to MBN27346 you requested advice on training opportunities that could benefit Queensland Maritime sector. there is approximately \$13.7 million unallocated in the BQMJ election initiative.
- While Round one of the CSGP allocated funds towards some domestic commercial vessels (DCV) operators and their crew training, Round two specifically targeted RAV operators. This brief proposes initiatives to support Round two CSGP tenet, by providing training and employment opportunities that support qualified crewing of RAVs.
- As an immediate initiative, MBN27217 proposed for MSQ to provide funding to TAFE Cairns to support course fees for the first two cohorts of students undertaking the newly developed IR course. In that brief, the funding was proposed to be capped at 40 students per cohort, with approximately \$6800 allocated per person. Under this proposal, TAFE Queensland will deliver the educational services, monitor students' progress and completion. Since this brief was created TAFE Cairns has commenced the course with a limit of 14 per cohort. Funding the first two full cohorts would cost just over \$370,000.

Key Issues

- Qualifications in the maritime sector are often contingent on training and practical experience in an active sea-going role. This entails candidates being able to access sea time opportunities. Therefore, the inherent risk of any program that does not adequately address or include sea time is that TAFE qualifications alone could be seen only part of the solution to gaining meaningful employment, until they can access sea time opportunities, which will enable them to become certified as anIR.
- While the BQMJ MTGP has focussed on skills development, it was based on providing opportunities for organisations to upskill existing employees, but due to applicant demand was only delivered on operators of DCV vessels. Under the MTGP program 29 training grants have been awarded. To date 14 courses have been completed, (four Certificate IV in Marine Operations (MED1) and 10 Certificate IV in Marine Operations (Master <45), while four offers have been rescinded.
- Conversely, the BQMJ's MEGP focused on new employees and including a requirement for employees to undertake training, and employers to provide employment for two years. The program has created 10 roles for employees conditioned to undertake IR training. One operator was successful in attaining CSGP funding under Round one, while the second successful applicant has completed their first year of employment and training with all new entrants still in employment.

TMR's proposal

- To provide sustainable career opportunities TMR proposes the following:

Reintroducing a refined MEGP

- It is recommended that the MEGP be modified to allow for sponsorship of trainees extending to sea time/employment, training, travel, and accommodation for Certificate III in Maritime Operations (IR). Sea time/employment may vary between one to two years depending on the organisation's vessel operations.
- To ensure that industry shows sufficient interest, sponsorship should be capped at around \$200,000 (total) per person over the two years. TMR does not believe such sea time support or investment by organisations would be feasible if near full wages were not funded. It should be noted, however that this approach may cause precedent issues for TAFE/DESBT as their subsidies for other programs are substantially lower.
- To facilitate this, MSQ would release an expression of interest for organisations operating RAVs, with funding capped at \$100,000 per student placement per year.
- To correspond with the IR course limits, the costs of the program for two intakes of 14 students would be \$2.8 million per intake. MSQ's costs to administer and manage is estimated at \$300,000 per year for four years totalling an additional \$1.2 million.
- DESBT have advised funding of \$200,000 would be required to deal with any increased demand for the delivery of additional courses, in the form of an additional instructor. The four year cost to DESBT would be \$800,000.
- Implementing this approach will require some amendments to the current program and guidelines but it is envisaged these would not require a material amount of work and could be done relatively quickly, possibly within two months of approval of this approach.
- If lower uptake than projected results in remaining funds available, a third program could be undertaken. The total anticipated costs of the above approach would require \$7.9 million to be spent across the next four years.

Delivery of Current and upcoming IR course in Cairns

- MSQ to provide the funds to TAFE Cairns to support course fees for the first two cohorts of students undertaking the newly developed IR course. TAFE Queensland has advised that the IR course has a maximum class size of 14 students in each cohort.

- The BQMJ Initiative fully funding these two cohorts of the IR course enrolments would cost \$370,000. If the differential between the payment and the subsidy was funded, then the cost would only be \$112,000.
- This proposal would be doubled if MSQ also funds Courses three and four in concurrent years

Development of marine engineering course to crewing of RAVs

- As part of TMR's proposal, MSQ could fund TAFE Queensland to enhance maritime training opportunities, such as developing a Queensland Based Diploma of Marine Operations (Marine Engineering Class three Near Coastal) or other relevant qualifications. This builds on the successful IR course development.
- It is envisaged that TAFE Queensland would likely seek around \$2 million to fund the development of this course. Similar to the IR course, development of a marine engineering course will allow Queenslanders to access this course in Queensland. Once developed, TAFE could deliver the course across the state, not just in Cairns.

Financial Implications

- Funding of \$10.7 million allocated under the BQMJ program will be redirected from CSGP, to support and fund the initiatives outlined under TMR's proposal.
- MSQ has no allocated resources to run or administer the program. The existing program has been run internally repositioning resources and detracting from other maritime safety reforms. If MSQ are to pursue and administer this proposal, in addition to the funding detailed above, MSQ will require an extra two full-time equivalent to deliver on the program.

Consideration of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HR Act)

- The HR Act was considered when making the recommendations outlined in this brief, and there are no impacts to human rights.

Consultation with Stakeholders

- Some consultation was undertaken with DESBT, however based on MSQ officers' experience in managing the program and marine industry feedback, there is a difference of opinion around which specific initiatives that would best provide sustainable support and enhancements and result in jobs to Queenslanders.

Employment

- If approved, the proposed financial support for organisations to employ staff and support them through their studies will provide short term employment opportunities. In the longer term the proposal provides an increased pool of licensed mariners that can support operators of Queensland based RAVs.

Media

- A draft media statement has been prepared supporting this brief (refer **Attachment 1**), which the Minister could be use at their discretion or as a basis for joint release.

Election Commitments

- This matter relates to the BQMJI election commitment.

Government Objectives

- This brief aligns with the government objective of: better jobs.

Summary of Actions

- That you approve:

- the amendment to the Maritime Training Grants Program (MTGP) under BQMJ, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Queensland Cairns, for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed IR course (MAR30220) and for MSQ to fund the second intake of students' course fees when this course is undertaken
- the course fees for another two training cohorts beyond the initial two courses detailed above (on the basis of 28 students per year for two years)
- the current MEGP be amended to fund the employment of candidates in sea-going roles, to compliment the candidates undertaking the IR training at Cairns TAFE and retaining the other requirements of the MEGP. This will ensure that sea time course requirements are met and full qualifications are gained. The broad parameters of the program would entail funding for up to two years at \$100,000 per annum for a maximum of two years per candidate. Attendance and successful completion of the IR course and achievements of core sea time competencies will be key elements required for the release of funds
- funding to DESBT and TAFE Queensland for the development of Marine Engineers course, to fill a gap in training opportunities for Queensland Mariners and create a genuine pathway for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) based sea-farer progression
- that in conjunction with the MEGP, funding be provided to TAFE Cairns for an additional instructor to be appointed to deliver the IR course for two years
- MSQ to research and develop additional support that is consistent with the approved recommendations detailed above, if funding is available after the implementation of these initiatives.

Minister's comments:

TMR to fund admin fees internally.

Approved / Not Approved

Minister's signature.....

Date ..30..1..9...1..24...

From: Anne E Moffat
Sent: Friday, 13 September 2024 11:39 AM
To: Sally Z Stannard
Cc: DG-Corro; DLO; Peter Y Brown
Subject: FW: Super Urgent MBN27217- DG endorsement - Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives
Attachments: MBN27217 Combined.pdf

Importance: High

DG,

For your consideration.

Kind regards,

Anne Moffat
Chief Operations Officer
Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

P: (07) 3066 7112 M: Not relevant
E: anne.e.moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au | W: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Ministerial.Parliament <Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 11:36 AM
To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>; TMR DLO <TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Super Urgent MBN27217- DG endorsement - Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives
Importance: High

Hi Anne

Please find attached for DG's consideration a ministerial decision brief seeking Minister's approval for option 4 to fulfil the expansion of the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Cairns for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220) and for the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to fund the second intake of students' course fees.

Urgency – Brett, CoS is chasing.

Once the content is considered, please email to Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Kind regards Karmy

Kamala Brooks
Senior Advisor (Ministerial and Parliamentary Support)
Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services

Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads
Floor 5 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001
(07) 3066 7519
E: kamala.a.brooks@tmr.qld.gov.au W: CLES Connection Hub

Released under RTI - DTMR

Department of Transport and Main Roads
Decision Brief
MBN27217

To: Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

SUBJECT: Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives	URGENT: Decision required by 13 September 2024 as delivery of the initial integrated ratings course has commenced.
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Summary

- Your approval is sought to expand the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives (BQMJI) and for Maritime Safety Queensland to provide funding to TAFE Cairns for one of the initial cohorts of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220).
- On 29 July 2024, TAFE Cairns received provisional approval from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) that the Integrated Ratings course will meet the standards of training, certification and watchkeeping (STCW) training qualification. The STCW is the standards of competence and certification for seafarers.

Recommendations

- That you approve option 4 to fulfil the expansion of the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Cairns for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220) and for the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to fund the second intake of students' course fees.
- That you note this information will be published on TMR's website.

Background

- BQMJI has \$21 million allocated to support the establishment of a coastal shipping service, skills and training course subsidies, maritime jobs and creation of cadetships, and other costs associated with implementing the program.
- MSQ developed the BQMJI that includes three grant programs to deliver on the government's commitment to increase employment opportunities for Queensland mariners.
- The BQMJI intends to support the establishment of a coastal shipping service, skills and training course subsidies, maritime jobs and creation of cadetships, and other costs associated with implementing the program.
- The BQMJI has three grant programs:
 - Maritime Training Grant Program (MTGP)
 - Maritime Employment Grant Program (MEGP)
 - Coastal Shipping Grant Program – Round One and Round Two.
- Two programs—the MEGP and MTGP—were announced on Thursday 20 April 2023 and grant agreements are in place with the successful applicants.

MTGP Round One

- Twenty-nine MTGP offers have been accepted by nine individual maritime organisations, with a total of \$305,000 awarded. A total of 11 grants have been acquitted of the 29 MTGP accepted offers. This means a total of \$57,366.47 has been paid out so far.
- Employees have obtained a Certificate IV in Maritime Operations (Master up to 35 Metres Near Coastal) and a Certificate IV in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 1 Near Coastal).
- A review of the maritime training grants was conducted in late February 2024 with the aim of progressing completion and acquittal of any outstanding grants prior to 30 June 2024. The review revealed that six agreements required extensions of three to six months due to course availability.

Integrated Ratings (IR) course

- An agreement between MSQ and TAFE Cairns has led TAFE Cairns to develop the 21 course components required to offer the MAR30220 IR Course.
- On 29 July 2024, TAFE Cairns received provisional approval from AMSA that the IR course would meet the STCW training qualification.
- TAFE Cairns has commenced course enrolments in August and the first course commenced in early September 2024.

Lifeboat Davit Facility

- This coincides with the successful delivery of the lifeboat and davit facility project.
- MSQ and QBuild arranged for the installation of one lifeboat on serviceable components of the two Davits at a MSQ Base in Cairns on 31 May 2024, with the facility handed over to MSQ, a Licence to Occupy is being developed with TAFE Cairns so they can operate the training facility.
- The lifeboat and Davit is now in place and are available for use by TAFE Cairns for their August/September 2024 course offerings and thereafter.

Key Issues

- MSQ is exploring options to expand the offering of training grants to include individuals who are not currently employed. The expansion aims to reach a wider audience and ensures equal opportunity in accessing training funded under the BQMJI.
- Any new grant options will likely necessitate a review (and potentially a revised set) of guidelines. Changes will need to be made to the existing guideline sections headed: objectives of the program, courses covered, eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, payment methodology, eligible expenses, and acquittals/monitoring process. Other sections may require changes, depending on the expanded offerings.
- IR courses will be included, while other qualifications are under consideration.
- This training grant offered by MSQ covers the course fees. It is not a duplication of service to that offered by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT). Under DESBT's Queensland VET Investment and User Choice program, a student co-contribution fee is required.

Options

- Four primary options have been identified.

Option	Description
Option 1:	MSQ provides grants directly to students to undertake training with a registered training organisation of their choice.

Option	Description
Option 2:	MSQ provides staggered grant payments at intervals to TAFE Cairns. The first grant payment is made at enrolment, and subsequent payments are subject to students completing a certain number of units of competency.
Option 3:	MSQ provides the entire grant amount to TAFE Cairns via a scholarship agreement. Under this arrangement, TAFE Cairns will be required to carry out certain services including student outreach, manage the application process for scholarships and report on student's progress.
Option 4: Preferred	MSQ retrospectively fund the initial round of course fees for the new IR courses offered at TAFE and MSQ fund the next (second) intake of students' IR course fees.

- A breakdown of the details, advantages, and disadvantages of each of the above options are summarised in **Attachment 1**.
- Option 4 has been assessed as the preferred option. It proposes for MSQ to retrospectively provide the funds to TAFE Cairns to support course fees for the first cohort of students undertaking the newly developed Integrated Ratings course. The funding will be capped at 40 students per cohort, with approximately \$6800 allocated per person. It is estimated that this will cost MSQ a total of \$272,000. Under this option, TAFE Cairns will deliver the educational services, monitor students' progress and completion. This option is preferable to Option 3 because it aligns with the strategic goals of the BQMJI program and can be implemented swiftly since it does not necessitate new or revised guidelines. MSQ can negotiate an agreement without requiring any changes. TAFE Cairns commenced the first course in September 2024. In addition, MSQ will fund the second intake of students' course fees when that course commences.

Financial Implications

- Funding for the preferred option 4 for the first round is estimated to range from \$172,000 to \$272,000. Funding the second intake of students' course fees will double the estimated costs to a maximum of \$544,000 if both the intakes were fully subscribed. The funding required for this option is available through the BQMJI.
- Should option 3 be selected, it is estimated that additional resources will be required to account for administration costs associated with monitoring student progress and managing payments. The administration cost is estimated to be \$100,000. The total cost of Option 3 is estimated to cost between \$272,000 to \$372,000 (for the initial first intake only), with funding available under the BQMJI.

Consideration of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HR Act)

- The HR Act was considered when making the recommendations outlined in this brief, and there are no impacts to human rights.

Consultation with Stakeholders

- No consultation was undertaken at this stage. However, discussions with TAFE Cairns will commence once the outcome of this brief is known.

Employment

- There are no direct employment benefits associated with the contents of this brief. However, if approved, the proposed financial support for students completing the funded TAFE Cairns IR Course will facilitate employment opportunities.

Media

- There is a potential media opportunity for the lifeboat and davit in collaboration with TAFE Cairns (MBN27055).

Election Commitments

- This matter relates to the BQMJI election commitment.

Government Objectives

- This brief aligns with the government objective of 'Better Jobs'.

Summary of Actions

- That you approve option 4 to fulfil the expansion of the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Cairns for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220) and for MSQ to fund the second intake of students' course fees.
- That you note this information will be published on TMR's website.

Minister's comments:

Approved / Not Approved

Minister's signature.....

Date/...../.....

Released under RTI - DTMR

Attachment 1 – Options Analysis:

Points of consideration	Option 1: Funds provided to student	Option 2: Staggered payments made to TAFE	Option 3: Full grant amount provided to TAFE via scholarship arrangement	Option 4: MSQ fund the initial round of TAFE Qld IR Course
Details	MSQ will be required to promote the program, manage the application of grants, select the grant recipients, manage the payment process, and monitor the progress of students.	MSQ will be required to promote the program, manage the application of grants, select the grant recipients, manage the payment process, and monitor the progress of students.	Under this option, MSQ will only be required to manage the payment process and monitor the progress of students	Tafe Qld administers and MSQ utilises funding from the BQMJI to cover the tuition (course) fees of the first and second intakes of course attendees.
Advantages	Choice of provider and greater flexibility in training time.	As disbursements of funds are subject to completion of blocks of unit of competencies, there is reduced risk of funds being wasted, and program objectives not met (student completions). Recovery mechanism not required as payments are for blocks of units rather than the entire qualification.	Least administrative burden on MSQ.	TAFE Qld track and monitor course attendance and qualification.
Disadvantages	Administrative burden on MSQ due to limited experience and resources. MSQ does not have the resources to facilitate this.	Administrative burdens on MSQ due to limited experience and resource. Non-competitive process as only TAFE is offered this opportunity.	Uncertainty regarding TAFE's ability in student outreach and management of scholarship applications.	Potential limited numbers of students enrolled. Not seen as a TMR initiative (more TAFE initiative). Lose oversight.

Points of consideration	Option 1: Funds provided to student	Option 2: Staggered payments made to TAFE	Option 3: Full grant amount provided to TAFE via scholarship arrangement	Option 4: MSQ fund the initial round of TAFE Qld IR Course
	<p>Complexities in managing grant application such as the criteria.</p> <p>Difficulty in recovery of funds.</p>		<p>MSQ may have to negotiate with TAFE regarding imposing certain criteria on different client groups.</p> <p>Non-competitive process as only TAFE is offered the opportunity.</p> <p>No recovery mechanism if a student discontinues from training.</p>	

Released under RTI/TMR

From: [Peter Y Brown](#)
To: [Ministerial.Parliament](#); [Anne E Moffat](#)
Cc: [DG-Corro](#); [TMR DLO](#)
Subject: RE: Super Urgent MBN27217- DG endorsement - Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives
Date: Friday, 13 September 2024 11:52:47 AM

Thankyou

Peter Brown

Director and CLLO | Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services

Governance Branch | Corporate Division | **Department of Transport and Main Roads**

(07) 306 67044 Not relevant | peter.y.brown@tmr.qld.gov.au | [CLES Connection Hub](#)

This email and any attachments may contain Cabinet-related information. The unlawful disclosure or retention of Cabinet-related information may constitute an offence under the *Criminal Code*, corrupt behaviour under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and may constitute official misconduct under the *Public Service Act 2008*. Encouraging or directing another person to do these things may also be an offence.

From: Ministerial.Parliament <Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 11:36 AM

To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>; TMR DLO <TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Super Urgent MBN27217- DG endorsement - Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives

Importance: High

Hi Anne

Please find attached for DG's consideration a ministerial decision brief seeking Minister's approval for option 4 to fulfil the expansion of the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Cairns for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220) and for the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to fund the second intake of students' course fees.

Urgency – Brett, CoS is chasing.

Once the content is considered, please email to Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Kind regards Karmy

Kamala Brooks

Senior Advisor (Ministerial and Parliamentary Support)

Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services

Governance Branch | Corporate Division

Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Released under RTI - DTMR



From: [DG-Corro](#)
To: [Ministerial.Parliament](#)
Cc: [DG-Corro](#)
Subject: FW: Super Urgent MBN27217- DG endorsement - Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives
Date: Friday, 13 September 2024 12:36:44 PM

Good afternoon,

Please see below DG endorsement.

Kind regards,

Luke D Gardener
A/Administration Officer
Office of the Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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.....
The Department of Transport and Main Roads acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways.
We also acknowledge their ancestors and Elders both past and present.
The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to reconciliation among all Australians.
.....

From: Sally Z Stannard <Sally.Stannard@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 11:55 AM
To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>; DLO <DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Super Urgent MBN27217- DG endorsement - Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives

Approved (great brief)

Kind regards

Sally Stannard
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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From: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 11:38:50 AM
To: Sally Z Stannard <Sally.Stannard@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>; DLO <DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Super Urgent MBN27217- DG endorsement - Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives

DG,

For your consideration.

Kind regards,

Anne Moffat

Chief Operations Officer
Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

P: (07) 3066 7112 M: Not relevant
E: anne.e.moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au | W: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Ministerial.Parliament <Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 11:36 AM
To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>; TMR DLO <TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Super Urgent MBN27217- DG endorsement - Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives
Importance: High

Hi Anne

Please find attached for DG's consideration a ministerial decision brief seeking Minister's approval for option 4 to fulfil the expansion of the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs initiatives, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Cairns for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220) and for the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to fund the second intake of students' course fees.

Urgency – Brett, CoS is chasing.

Once the content is considered, please email to Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Kind regards Karmy

Kamala Brooks
Senior Advisor (Ministerial and Parliamentary Support)

Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
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Released under RTI - DTMR

Department of Transport and Main Roads
Decision Brief
MBN27217

To: Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

SUBJECT: Proposed expansion Maritime Training Grant Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives	URGENT: Decision required by 13 September 2024 as delivery of the initial integrated ratings course has commenced.
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Summary

- Your approval is sought to expand the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives (BQMJI) and for Maritime Safety Queensland to provide funding to TAFE Cairns for one of the initial cohorts of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220).
- On 29 July 2024, TAFE Cairns received provisional approval from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) that the Integrated Ratings course will meet the standards of training, certification and watchkeeping (STCW) training qualification. The STCW is the standards of competence and certification for seafarers.

Recommendations

- That you approve option 4 to fulfil the expansion of the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Cairns for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220) and for the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to fund the second intake of students' course fees.
- That you note this information will be published on TMR's website.

Background

- BQMJI has \$21 million allocated to support the establishment of a coastal shipping service, skills and training course subsidies, maritime jobs and creation of cadetships, and other costs associated with implementing the program.
- MSQ developed the BQMJI that includes three grant programs to deliver on the government's commitment to increase employment opportunities for Queensland mariners.
- The BQMJI intends to support the establishment of a coastal shipping service, skills and training course subsidies, maritime jobs and creation of cadetships, and other costs associated with implementing the program.
- The BQMJI has three grant programs:
 - Maritime Training Grant Program (MTGP)
 - Maritime Employment Grant Program (MEGP)
 - Coastal Shipping Grant Program – Round One and Round Two.
- Two programs—the MEGP and MTGP—were announced on Thursday 20 April 2023 and grant agreements are in place with the successful applicants.

Action Officer: Perry Tan Principal Policy and Finance Advisor (Policy, Planning and Regulation) Tel: 3066 3719 Date: 28 Aug 2024	Endorsed by: Peter Wilkins Executive Director (Policy, Planning & Regulation) Tel: 3066 4069 Date: 28 Aug 2024	Endorsed by: Kell Dillon General Manager Maritime Safety Queensland Tel: 3066 3977 Date: 11 Sept 2024	Endorsed by: DDG Geoff Magoffin Deputy Director-General Customer Services, Safety & Regulation Division Tel: 3066 5100 Date: 13 Sept 2024	Endorsed by: DG Sally Stannard Director-General Tel: 3066 7316 Date: 13 Sept 2024
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MTGP Round One

- Twenty-nine MTGP offers have been accepted by nine individual maritime organisations, with a total of \$305,000 awarded. A total of 11 grants have been acquitted of the 29 MTGP accepted offers. This means a total of \$57,366.47 has been paid out so far.
- Employees have obtained a Certificate IV in Maritime Operations (Master up to 35 Metres Near Coastal) and a Certificate IV in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 1 Near Coastal).
- A review of the maritime training grants was conducted in late February 2024 with the aim of progressing completion and acquittal of any outstanding grants prior to 30 June 2024. The review revealed that six agreements required extensions of three to six months due to course availability.

Integrated Ratings (IR) course

- An agreement between MSQ and TAFE Cairns has led TAFE Cairns to develop the 21 course components required to offer the MAR30220 IR Course.
- On 29 July 2024, TAFE Cairns received provisional approval from AMSA that the IR course would meet the STCW training qualification.
- TAFE Cairns has commenced course enrolments in August and the first course commenced in early September 2024.

Lifeboat Davit Facility

- This coincides with the successful delivery of the lifeboat and davit facility project.
- MSQ and QBuild arranged for the installation of one lifeboat on serviceable components of the two Davits at a MSQ Base in Cairns on 31 May 2024, with the facility handed over to MSQ, a Licence to Occupy is being developed with TAFE Cairns so they can operate the training facility.
- The lifeboat and Davit is now in place and are available for use by TAFE Cairns for their August/September 2024 course offerings and thereafter.

Key Issues

- MSQ is exploring options to expand the offering of training grants to include individuals who are not currently employed. The expansion aims to reach a wider audience and ensures equal opportunity in accessing training funded under the BQMJI.
- Any new grant options will likely necessitate a review (and potentially a revised set) of guidelines. Changes will need to be made to the existing guideline sections headed: objectives of the program, courses covered, eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, payment methodology, eligible expenses, and acquittals/monitoring process. Other sections may require changes, depending on the expanded offerings.
- IR courses will be included, while other qualifications are under consideration.
- This training grant offered by MSQ covers the course fees. It is not a duplication of service to that offered by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT). Under DESBT's Queensland VET Investment and User Choice program, a student co-contribution fee is required.

Options

- Four primary options have been identified.

Option	Description
Option 1:	MSQ provides grants directly to students to undertake training with a registered training organisation of their choice.

Option	Description
Option 2:	MSQ provides staggered grant payments at intervals to TAFE Cairns. The first grant payment is made at enrolment, and subsequent payments are subject to students completing a certain number of units of competency.
Option 3:	MSQ provides the entire grant amount to TAFE Cairns via a scholarship agreement. Under this arrangement, TAFE Cairns will be required to carry out certain services including student outreach, manage the application process for scholarships and report on student's progress.
Option 4: Preferred	MSQ retrospectively fund the initial round of course fees for the new IR courses offered at TAFE and MSQ fund the next (second) intake of students' IR course fees.

- A breakdown of the details, advantages, and disadvantages of each of the above options are summarised in **Attachment 1**.
- Option 4 has been assessed as the preferred option. It proposes for MSQ to retrospectively provide the funds to TAFE Cairns to support course fees for the first cohort of students undertaking the newly developed Integrated Ratings course. The funding will be capped at 40 students per cohort, with approximately \$6800 allocated per person. It is estimated that this will cost MSQ a total of \$272,000. Under this option, TAFE Cairns will deliver the educational services, monitor students' progress and completion. This option is preferable to Option 3 because it aligns with the strategic goals of the BQMJI program and can be implemented swiftly since it does not necessitate new or revised guidelines. MSQ can negotiate an agreement without requiring any changes. TAFE Cairns commenced the first course in September 2024. In addition, MSQ will fund the second intake of students' course fees when that course commences.

Financial Implications

- Funding for the preferred option 4 for the first round is estimated to range from \$172,000 to \$272,000. Funding the second intake of students' course fees will double the estimated costs to a maximum of \$544,000 if both the intakes were fully subscribed. The funding required for this option is available through the BQMJI.
- Should option 3 be selected, it is estimated that additional resources will be required to account for administration costs associated with monitoring student progress and managing payments. The administration cost is estimated to be \$100,000. The total cost of Option 3 is estimated to cost between \$272,000 to \$372,000 (for the initial first intake only), with funding available under the BQMJI.

Consideration of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HR Act)

- The HR Act was considered when making the recommendations outlined in this brief, and there are no impacts to human rights.

Consultation with Stakeholders

- No consultation was undertaken at this stage. However, discussions with TAFE Cairns will commence once the outcome of this brief is known.

Employment

- There are no direct employment benefits associated with the contents of this brief. However, if approved, the proposed financial support for students completing the funded TAFE Cairns IR Course will facilitate employment opportunities.

Media

- There is a potential media opportunity for the lifeboat and davit in collaboration with TAFE Cairns (MBN27055).

Election Commitments

- This matter relates to the BQMJI election commitment.

Government Objectives

- This brief aligns with the government objective of 'Better Jobs'.

Summary of Actions

- That you approve option 4 to fulfil the expansion of the Maritime Training Grants Program under the Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs Initiatives, which will provide retrospective funding to TAFE Cairns for the fees associated with the initial cohort of students' course fees for the newly developed Integrated Ratings Course (MAR30220) and for MSQ to fund the second intake of students' course fees.
- That you note this information will be published on TMR's website.

Minister's comments:



Approved / Not Approved

Minister's signature.....

Date 16.1.24

Released under RTI - DTMR

Attachment 1 – Options Analysis:

Points of consideration	Option 1: Funds provided to student	Option 2: Staggered payments made to TAFE	Option 3: Full grant amount provided to TAFE via scholarship arrangement	Option 4: MSQ fund the initial round of TAFE Qld IR Course
Details	MSQ will be required to promote the program, manage the application of grants, select the grant recipients, manage the payment process, and monitor the progress of students.	MSQ will be required to promote the program, manage the application of grants, select the grant recipients, manage the payment process, and monitor the progress of students.	Under this option, MSQ will only be required to manage the payment process and monitor the progress of students	Tafe Qld administers and MSQ utilises funding from the BQMJI to cover the tuition (course) fees of the first and second intakes of course attendees.
Advantages	Choice of provider and greater flexibility in training time.	As disbursements of funds are subject to completion of blocks of unit of competencies, there is reduced risk of funds being wasted, and program objectives not met (student completions). Recovery mechanism not required as payments are for blocks of units rather than the entire qualification.	Least administrative burden on MSQ.	TAFE Qld track and monitor course attendance and qualification.
Disadvantages	Administrative burden on MSQ due to limited experience and resources. MSQ does not have the resources to facilitate this.	Administrative burdens on MSQ due to limited experience and resource. Non-competitive process as only TAFE is offered this opportunity.	Uncertainty regarding TAFE's ability in student outreach and management of scholarship applications.	Potential limited numbers of students enrolled. Not seen as a TMR initiative (more TAFE initiative). Lose oversight.

Points of consideration	Option 1: Funds provided to student	Option 2: Staggered payments made to TAFE	Option 3: Full grant amount provided to TAFE via scholarship arrangement	Option 4: MSQ fund the initial round of TAFE Qld IR Course
	<p>Complexities in managing grant application such as the criteria.</p> <p>Difficulty in recovery of funds.</p>		<p>MSQ may have to negotiate with TAFE regarding imposing certain criteria on different client groups.</p> <p>Non-competitive process as only TAFE is offered the opportunity.</p> <p>No recovery mechanism if a student discontinues from training.</p>	

Released under RTI/TMR

From: [DG-Corro](#)
To: [Ministerial.Parliament](#)
Cc: [DG-Corro](#)
Subject: FW: Urgent: MBN27333 - Subject to Legal Professional Privilege – Strictly Confidential - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege
Date: Friday, 13 September 2024 12:38:45 PM

Good afternoon,

Please see below DG endorsement.

Kind regards,

Luke D Gardener
A/Administration Officer
Office of the Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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.....
The Department of Transport and Main Roads acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways.
We also acknowledge their ancestors and Elders both past and present.
The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to reconciliation among all Australians.
.....

From: Sally Z Stannard <Sally.Stannard@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 12:20 PM
To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Urgent: MBN27333 - Subject to Legal Professional Privilege – Strictly Confidential - For DG consideration - Legal advice on options
Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Approved

Kind regards

Sally Stannard
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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From: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 11:47:03 AM
To: Sally Z Stannard <Sally.Stannard@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Urgent: MBN27333 - Subject to Legal Professional Privilege – Strictly Confidential - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

DG,

For your consideration.

Kind regards,

Anne Moffat

Chief Operations Officer
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Anne E Moffat <Anne.E.Moffat@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DG-Corro <DG-Corro@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Urgent: MBN27333 - Subject to Legal Professional Privilege – Strictly Confidential - For DG consideration - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Good morning Anne

Subject to Legal Professional Privilege – Strictly Confidential

Please find attached for DG's consideration a ministerial advice brief regarding Legal advice on options - Part Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Urgency reason: The Chief of Staff is chasing on the endorsement.

Once the content is considered, please email to Ministerial.Parliament@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Kinny Lo-Keller
Acting Assistant Advisor (Ministerial and Parliament Services)
Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
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Pages 88 through 89 redacted for the following reason: -

Exempt Sch.3(7) Legal Professional Privilege

Pages 90 through 93 redacted for the following reason:-

Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(b) Reveal Cabinet consideration

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