

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

Submission No: 094

Submission By: Queensland Recreational Boating Council



Queensland Recreational Boating Council

Representing recreational boating for over 50 years

Queensland Recreational Boating Council

Org. No: IA 18276

ABN: 63 1630 968 033

Email: secretary@qrb.org.au

Web: www.qrb.org.au

24 March 2026

PPCMB

SDIWC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Submission: Feedback on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill

The Queensland Recreational Boating Council (QRBC) wish to provide feedback on the proposed Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority (SCWA) Bill.

In December 2025, in a letter addressed to Premier Crisafulli and answered by the TMR Minister, QRBC expressed concerns that the establishment of the SCWA may duplicate services already delivered effectively by existing agencies. QRBC remains concerned that the SCWA Bill continues to contain these issues.

Comments on the Minister's Media Release – 5 March 2025

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads stated that:

- *“The independent statutory authority will oversee waterways from Pumicestone Passage to the Noosa River and Noosa Lakes, including the Mooloolah River and the Mooloolaba State Boat Harbour.”*

The area that SCWA will cover contains at least three Regional Councils, each with distinct recreational and commercial waterway requirements. QRBC is concerned that this may limit the SCWA's ability to operate efficiently and respond to local needs in a timely and effective manner. Clarity is required on how consistent and effective management would be achieved.

- *“SCWA will be responsible for long-term marine planning, dredging and maintenance of declared channels, and the delivery and upkeep of essential marine infrastructure such as jetties and boat ramps.”*

QRBC accepts this as a clear statement of the intended role of the SCWA.

- the media release also described the SCWA as *“a one-stop-shop to deliver trusted local knowledge for all water users.”*

QRBC is concerned that this wording implies duplication of services currently delivered by Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ). The term “one-stop-shop” overlooks the statutory responsibilities held by multiple Local, State and Federal agencies across the waterways.

The media release further stated that:

- *“Maritime Safety Queensland will remain the state's maritime regulator, responsible for pollution management, safety compliance, education, enforcement and emergency response.”*

QRBC is concerned that this description does not include a basic function, the provision of safe navigation. Ie the provision of and the management of aids to navigation for water traffic management and boating safety. Safe navigation also includes emergency response, safety compliance, education and enforcement.

Recommendation

SCWA's role should address the issues of coastal foreshore management, not duplicate existing responsibilities. In case of the aids-to-navigation network, this is the core responsibility of MSQ, The SCWA should inform MSQ any proposed modifications &/or maintenance requirements and manage the delivery any such infrastructure by MSQ.



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Feedback on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill

QRBC Supports the proposed functions of the SCWA stated by Queensland Government.

- Plan strategically for the management of the Sunshine Coast foreshore waterways
- Develop a waterways management program to implement the strategy
- Manage navigational access to, and within, the Sunshine Coast waterways
- Monitor and manage sand and sediment movement in Sunshine Coast waterways and adjacent coastal waters and land.

QRBC does not support the inclusion of

- install, manage and maintain infrastructure for the Sunshine Coast waterways,

The role of SCWA should be to 'deliver' navigational access. SCWA should deliver this function through infrastructure projects (including dredging) and by working with MSQ which holds responsibility for safe navigation outcomes, including education, compliance, enforcement and the international system of aids to navigation. SCWA's role should address the issues of coastal foreshore management including dredging and not duplicate existing responsibilities

Stakeholder Registration

Please register the Queensland Recreational Boating Council (QRBC) as a stakeholder in this process.

Yours Sincerely

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Ernie Stewart

Hon. Secretary

Queensland Recreational Boating Council Inc.

(secretary@qrbc.org.au)

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