

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 995**

**Asked on Wednesday, 14 October 2015**

**MR LAST** asked the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (HON M BAILEY) —

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise what plans there are to construct an all-tidal boat launching facility in the Burdekin to enable Burdekin Volunteer Marine Rescue personnel to perform life rescuing services?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Burdekin for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering for boaties, and has allocated an addition \$30 million over two years to the Marine Infrastructure Fund.

I am advised that there are no all-tide boat launching ramps in the Burdekin because the local geography means this would not be possible without the construction of a special harbour.

A number of environmental restrictions can also apply including because of the presence of a large regional Fish Habitat Area (FHA) in the Burdekin electorate.

However, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has established and maintains several part-tide ramps in Burdekin creeks.

I am advised that as matters currently stand, rescues off the Burdekin coast are appropriately responded to by Marine Rescue Burdekin in several ways:

- If the tide is suitable, respond and return to a Burdekin creek.
- If (falling) tide is suitable for launching but not recovery, respond from a Burdekin Creek but return to deep water harbours at either Bowen or Townsville.
- If Marine Rescue Burdekin vessel is not able to respond in time (depending on the emergency and tide status), the call-out is referred to either Bowen or Townsville to respond.

I am also pleased to confirm that TMR is currently working closely with Burdekin Volunteer Marine Rescue and Burdekin Shire Council to replace the Ocean Creek boat ramp, with a new three-lane ramp to be constructed at a different angle to the creek to assist Burdekin Volunteer Marine Rescue with launch and recovery of its vessels.

The design is being finalised following community consultation, including a stakeholder site meeting on 6 October. The increased scope of the ramp following that consultation has triggered a requirement to obtain environmental approvals through a development application process, which means that delivery is currently scheduled for the end of next year.