

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1390**

**Asked on 29 November 2022**

**MS F SIMPSON** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise how many calendar days the contracted dredge has dredged the Mooloolaba Harbour Entrance in the past 12 months and each of the previous 3 years?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) continues to actively manage access to the Mooloolah River entrance channel to ensure a safe, accessible waterway for all users.

The major flooding event earlier in the year created dangerous swell conditions which prevented safe access for a dredge to perform the work. However, once conditions improved, the channel was cleared to a depth of -2.5 metres below Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT). Under instruction from MSQ, the contractor continued to deepen the channel to -3.5 metres LAT to allow for resilience.

Since 2019, the contracted dredge has undertaken dredging in the Mooloolaba Harbour entrance channel, with days for each year as follows:

- 2019 – 26 days
- 2020 – 36 days
- 2021 – 63 days
- 2022 – 21 days.

Also in 2019, the dredge carried out an additional 53 days of dredging inside the boat harbour.

It was announced earlier in the year that a stakeholder reference group would be established to look at a longer-term solution for the entrance. This group includes representatives from the Coast Guard, commercial and recreational fishing groups, harbour business owners, residents and community groups. It is important that all perspectives are assessed and that a solution is developed that will reflect what the community wants and needs.