

Question on Notice

No. 353

Asked on 31 March 2022

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what the government's plan is to fix the dangerous entrance to the Mooloolah River to ensure safe passage for recreational and commercial fishers?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kawana for the question.

The Mooloolaba harbour and entrance training walls were built in the late 1960s. Since that time, sand shoaling events have occurred regularly in the entrance channel. The Department of Transport and Main Roads' Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) aims to keep the Mooloolaba Harbour entrance clear to navigable design depths at all times, given the economic importance of this harbour. The current strategy is to have a local dredge contractor engaged on an ongoing basis, with a dredge available at short notice.

MSQ continues to actively manage the shoaling at the Mooloolah River entrance and dredging of the entrance channel has recently recommenced following the formation of a new shoal. A Notice to Mariners was issued by MSQ on 6 April 2022, based on a 5 April 2022 hydrographic survey of the entrance channel. As conditions and depths frequently change, mariners are always encouraged to exercise extreme caution when entering river channels.