

## Question on Notice

No. 617

Asked on 23 May 2023

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the dangerous shoaling at the entrance to Mooloolaba Harbour and noting the direct entrance is again beneath legal minimum height, a trawler was recently grounded, waves are breaking over the bar and the alternative access from the western bay area via an 's' configuration is also under threat—

Will the Minister advise (a) why Maritime Safety Queensland has not convened the Stakeholder Reference Group since Christmas last year, (b) what is the outcome of monitoring of the western bay dredging program and (c) when the government will advise what decision has been taken to put in place a permanent solution?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

The Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) for the Mooloolaba Harbour entrance has been a valuable resource to Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ). Two meetings have been held to date, with several suggested alternatives identified, which MSQ is currently trialling and validating. In October 2022, an agreement was reached at the SRG meeting for MSQ to exhaust all options for an alternative to a breakwater extension, before progressing further with this as a long-term solution.

Accordingly, the Queensland Government is listening to stakeholders and the public and, based on their advice, has initiated an improved 'non-capital works' management strategy, named Western Channel Trial. On 19 May 2023, information about the current investigations was uploaded to MSQ's website and an email was sent from the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to SRG members of the recent update.

In parallel to the Western Channel trial, MSQ is finalising investigations into the two other potential management options: the 60-metre breakwater extension; or the potential feasibility of a sand trap off Point Cartwright headland. These options can be found on TMR's website, at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/mooloolaba-boat-harbour-entrance-long-term-solution](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/mooloolaba-boat-harbour-entrance-long-term-solution). After the next significant shoaling event, MSQ and the SRG will be in a position to assess the effectiveness of the Western Channel trial and subsequently progress a supported option for government consideration.