

Question on Notice

No. 870

Asked on 27 June 2025

MR S KNUTH ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON B MICKELBERG)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Maritime Safety Queensland requiring an annual inspection and report for mooring renewals, the refusal by businesses who normally inspect moorings to perform inspections on vessels in Mission Beach due to the threat of crocodile encounters, and the drastic effect this has on businesses who operate in the region—

Will the Minister provide advice and action any changes to regulations required to ensure vessel owners are able to renew their moorings if inspections are refused?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, on its website and in the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan it manages, lists the Mission Beach area as a transitory zone for crocodiles—a zone where crocodiles are often seen passing through. Large crocodiles, or those displaying dangerous behaviours, in the transitory zones are targeted for removal.

I am advised that the Department of Transport and Main Roads' Maritime Safety Queensland requires mooring inspections each year to ensure the mooring apparatus can hold moored ships during any weather.

My department categorises moorings by risk, as follows:

- category 1 are moorings managed by a third party
- category 2 are moorings that Maritime Safety Queensland has deemed a higher risk due to safety and navigation issues
- category 3 are moorings that Maritime Safety Queensland has deemed low risk moorings, located in benign and/or sheltered waterways.

For both Category 1 and 2 moorings, with higher risk profiles, Maritime Safety Queensland requires a qualified mooring contractor to inspect the moorings on behalf of the buoy moorings authority holder. For Category 3 moorings, that is, those that are deemed as lower risk, Maritime Safety Queensland stipulates that buoy mooring authority holders may undertake their own self-assessment to check the condition of the buoy mooring apparatus. Some Category 3 buoy mooring authority holders choose to use a qualified mooring contractor on their behalf, but this is not mandatory.

I am advised my department is not aware of any professional inspector refusing to inspect moorings due to the risk of crocodile encounters.

However, my department is aware of peak times for professional inspectors and that they may be unable to inspect moorings with short notice. In these circumstances, my department works with the authority holder to provide an extended authority to allow for the inspection to take place at the time the professional inspector is available.

I am advised that my department has not refused any mooring renewals in the Mission Beach area due to lack of inspection of the mooring. My department urges any authority holder with concerns regarding the safety of inspections, or concerns about renewals, to contact their local Maritime Safety Queensland office.