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## **Media Release – Pressure ramps up on Dalrymple Point**

Following numerous calls from members of the Bowen community expressing concerns with the recent closure of the Dalrymple Point boat ramp, the Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP, undertook a fact-finding mission to ascertain the circumstances and reasons why this boat ramp was closed.

“Residents need to understand that the decision to close the boat ramp was a decision made by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy,” Mr Last said. “The ramp was closed because it is located on unallocated state land and was basically an unauthorised boat ramp.”

“Unfortunately, issues such as liability have to be taken into account and, in its current form, the responsibility for the ramp is something that the state government is not prepared to take on.”

Despite the closure, Mr Last said the facility may be available in the future, however the Whitsunday Regional Council had a significant role to play if this were to happen.

“There is a considerable amount of work that would need to be done before the ramp could reopen,” Mr Last said. “Land tenure, access roads, parking, lighting, and other factors, including the construction of a legitimate boat ramp, would need to be addressed.

“I think it’s only fair to be completely honest with people and say that, without that work, the future of the Dalrymple Point boat ramp looks anything but bright because, until that work is done, the state government simply will not allow it to reopen.”

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