

Question on Notice
No. 927
Asked on 11 June 2019

Mr D Last asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the current situation at Molongle Creek, south of Home Hill and restricted access for medical retrievals—

Will the Premier ensure all relevant departments and the Treasurer urgently expedite the All Tide Access project to ensure lives of recreational boaties are protected, and to allow emergency services, including Volunteer Marine Rescue, to provide adequate services to Cape Upstart and the surrounding waters?

ANSWER:

Funding for all tide access at Molongle Creek was an election commitment made by my Government after advocacy from the Cape Upstart Community Progress Association and Molongle Creek Boat Club.

The project is part of my Government's \$100 million Marine Infrastructure Fund and \$14.5 billion, four-year program to deliver critical transport infrastructure upgrades and 13,500 jobs for regional Queensland.

In response to Question on Notice No. 281 asked by the Member for Burdekin on Wednesday, 21 March 2018, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (the Honourable Mark Bailey MP) advised that the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) was working on:

- options for a dredge spoil disposal land site
- preparation of a tri-party agreement between the Whitsunday Regional Council, the Molongle Creek Boat Club and TMR
- relevant state and federal marine agency approvals for the dredging project.

I am pleased to confirm that the dredge spoil land has now been purchased, the tri-party agreement is in place and agency approvals for the project are progressing well.

Following flooding associated with ex-Tropical Cyclone Penny earlier this year additional silt has built up in the channel and maintenance dredging is required to ensure continued access to the boat club before the all tide access project capital dredging begins next year.

I am advised that Molongle Creek Boat Club and Whitsunday Regional Council are responsible for the required maintenance dredging.

After consultation and collaboration with the boat club and the council the Department of Environment and Science issued an amended Environmental Authority to allow this maintenance dredging on 2 July 2019.