



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET55665
Your ref: 4189-24

4 April 2025

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 4189-24, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 12 March 2025 about the speed limit for watercraft using the Pumicestone Passage.

In response to the petitioners' request, I asked my department's Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) division to review marine traffic characteristics, marine incident and complaint data, existing regulations, and the navigational characteristics for Pumicestone Passage. In assessing reduction in speed limits across the Pumicestone Passage, MSQ considered the feedback received from individuals and the community, as well as the operational efficiency of the marine industry.

MSQ has determined that, from a maritime safety perspective, the current speed limits are considered appropriate given the waterway's dimensions and the current safety measures in place.

From a maritime safety perspective, current marine regulations require a six-knot speed limit for personal watercraft when operating within 60 metres of the shoreline, people in the water, anchored and moored vessels, and other infrastructure. Additional measures are also in place to regulate operation of vessels other than personal watercraft, such as recreational vessels, to six knots within 30 metres of people in the water, anchored and moored vessels, and other infrastructure.

Matters regarding environmental and marine life impacts fall outside of the remit of my portfolio responsibilities and, as such, would require referral to Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) as the lead agency.

Under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*, MSQ has the authority to set speed limits for marine safety within Queensland waters, while DETSI sets and enforces speed restrictions to protect marine life within the designated 'Go Slow' areas in Queensland Marine Parks. The Pumicestone Passage contains two designated Go Slow areas which fall within the Moreton Bay Marine Park, under the authority of DETSI.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to marine safety and working with communities to protect Queensland's waterways and the people who use them, while ensuring that boaties are still able to interact with and enjoy our beautiful natural environment.

Should any new data or significant changes in maritime safety circumstances on the Pumicestone Passage emerge, I will ensure that speed limits will be reassessed and adjusted as necessary.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Brent Mickelberg

BRENT MICKELBERG MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads