



Minister for State Development and Infrastructure  
Minister for Industrial Relations and  
Minister for Racing

Our ref: WR24/6817

26 March 2024

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Corner of Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

Thank you for your letters of 6 March 2024 and 21 March 2024 regarding petitions 4013-24 and 4043-24 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 5 March 2024 and 19 March 2024 about ensuring the Gold Coast Fishermen's Co-operative retains its current site and access to waterfront on the Southport Spit.

The Co-Operative has operated from Carter's Basin on the Gold Coast Spit for many years, with members of the Co-Operative offering seafood sales off the boat directly to the public. Another member of the Co-Operative operates tuna long lining vessels, selling fresh tuna on the Gold Coast as well to export markets. The unique opportunity to purchase fresh seafood off the trawlers is a much loved experience on The Spit.

This was recognised in The Spit Master Plan which envisages that the facilities associated with the fishing fleet in Carter's Basin are reorganised and renewed, enabling the daily catch to be sold to the public in a convenient and ordered manner. I support these outcomes and my department has been working to deliver these outcomes so the fishing fleet can remain in Carter's Basin selling its catch directly to local residents and visitors.

More recently, the City of Gold Coast and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority have highlighted a significant concern around the lack of commercial marina berths on the Gold Coast for the marine tourism industry. On 12 September 2023, petition 3905-23 was received by Parliament requesting support for the marine tourism industry on the Gold Coast by helping operators establish a new location for water-based tourism on The Spit.

On 22 January 2024, the Department of State Development and Infrastructure, in conjunction with the City of Gold Coast, released a Request for Expressions of Interest over a large area of land and water in Carter's Basin. This process closed on 4 March 2024 and the expressions of interest received are being assessed ahead of considering the next steps.

I want to see the local fishing fleet remain in Carter's Basin with renewed facilities. The Department of State Development and Infrastructure will continue to work with the Co-Operative and other stakeholders to deliver this outcome.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grace Grace', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**GRACE GRACE MP**  
**Minister for State Development and Infrastructure**  
**Minister for Industrial Relations and**  
**Minister for Racing**