

Cape Gloucester area boat ramp

Dingo Beach option

Project background

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) intends to build a new or upgraded boat ramp in the Cape Gloucester area in partnership with Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC).

There has been consistent demand over the years for a new or upgraded boat ramp in the Cape Gloucester area.

The *Recreational Boating Facilities Demand Forecasting Study 2017* recommended a new boating facility in the Cape Gloucester area as a high priority for the WRC area. The Queensland Government has provided \$1.4 million towards a new or upgraded boat ramp in the area, allowing TMR to partner with WRC for project delivery.

Detailed investigations have been undertaken on three shortlisted sites which have been subjected to hydrographic survey to assess their viability:

- Black Currant Island
- Dingo Beach
- Frog Rock on the west coast of Cape Gloucester.

Key features of a Dingo Beach boat ramp

An upgraded boat ramp at Dingo Beach would be one of:

- widening to two lanes and a short extension of the existing ramp for a minor improvement in tidal access (figure 1)
- widening to two lanes and addition of a 380m dredged access channel for all-tide access (figure 2)
- widening to two lanes and addition of a 380m causeway for all-tide access (figure 3).

The toe of the existing boat ramp at Dingo Beach is 1m above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)).

A possible upgraded boat ramp at Dingo Beach would involve a car trailer park for 45 vehicles, which is essentially the current level of provision for parking among the foreshore trees.

Key pros

- Existing impacted and used site.
- Convenient location between the two local communities.
- Not within a declared Fish Habitat Area or Dugong Protection Area.
- No mangrove communities at the boat ramp site.
- No seagrass meadows close to boat ramp.
- The adjacent beach is sandy and boaties would be able to use it as a queuing facility.
- Little reduction in visual amenity for the short extension option.
- Capable of including a low impact flex mat extension from toe of boat ramp out over sand flats to improve vehicle traction.

Key cons

- Little protection from north-east winds.
- Deep water is 380m from the shoreline and would require a long causeway or a dredged channel to enable the boat ramp to be all-tide.
- The high cost associated with building an impractically long (380m) built-up causeway or dredged channel across the coral and sand intertidal zone to make it all-tide.
- TMR's budget allocation of \$1.4 million is insufficient for an all-tide boat ramp at Dingo Beach.
- Extension of the Dingo Beach boat ramp using the funds available would provide only a small improvement in tidal access.
- For either a dredged channel or causeway there would be significant marine environmental and coastal process disturbance, which would be unlikely to gain environmental approvals.
- Loss of visual amenity (only for the causeway option).

Dingo Beach location overview

Widening and rebuilding the existing boat ramp with a short extension will be a straight forward construction project and achievable within available funding. However, either a long causeway or long dredged access channel are not currently funded and would both face extremely difficult environmental approvals.

Have your say

The Department of Transport and Main Roads would like to hear from the local community to understand your views about where the new all-tide boat ramp should be located.

Community consultation is open from 14 May to 14 June 2018.

For more information on this project or to have your say:

- **Visit** www.tmr.qld.gov.au/CapeGloucester to complete the online survey and review technical studies undertaken to date
- **Email** your comments/questions to BoatingInfrastructure@tmr.qld.gov.au
- **Phone** (07) 3066 4025
- **Post** your feedback to:
Department of Transport and Main Roads
ATT: Boating Infrastructure team
GPO Box 1549
Brisbane QLD 4001



Figure 3: Proposed concept design for Dingo Beach boat ramp



Figure 2: Proposed concept design for Dingo Beach dredged channel



Figure 1: Proposed concept design for Dingo Beach boat ramp short extension