

1 October 2021

The Hon. Mark Bailey
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
e. transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA) and what the Boating Industry Association understands are upcoming changes in the board and CEO positions.

The Gold Coast waterways are comprised of five rivers, 260km of navigable waterways and more than 750 hectares of lakes and dams. Collectively these waterways are iconic to the City of Gold Coast, and Queensland, and are an integral part of its allure for both residents and tourists. Images used nationally and internationally to showcase the Gold Coast almost always highlight activities on the water, from small paddle and sail craft to large power and sailing yachts.

The Gold Coast Waterways are a vital part of the framework that ensures the success of local marine businesses, many of which are leaders in their field globally and contribute millions of dollars to the local economy. The local marine industry (the majority of which are BIA members) provides thousands of jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities and attracts tens of thousands of visitors to South-East Queensland each year. With internationally recognised boat shows and events, vessel refit work in the Coomera Marine Precinct, visiting super yachts, world class marina facilities, and some of the best boat manufacturers in the world.

The GCWA was formed under the *Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012* to deliver the best possible management of the Gold Coast waterways at a 'reasonable cost' to the community and government, with a significant focus on 'vessel navigation, marine facilities, promotion and management of sustainable use of the waterways for marine industries, tourism and recreation'.

The Boating Industry Association agrees with the purposes captured in the Act which have a significant focus on boating matters and asks the Minister to ensure any change in leadership of the Authority recognises the importance of the waterways and boating to the region.

With the significant upcoming role changes, we believe the Minister has a golden opportunity to use this time to ensure the focus on boating outlined in the Act is delivered upon for the

people of Queensland. To this end, we would encourage the Minister to ensure the new leadership of the Authority have an excellent working knowledge of the local waterways and of the safe navigation, and use, of recreational vessels.

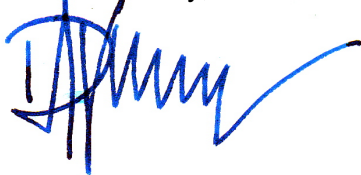
The leadership team should be led by and reflect a demonstrated capability to deliver upon the purposes of the Act and requires individuals with an intimate knowledge of and passion for the region.

The leadership team would ideally have existing relationships with industry, community, and government to aid you and your team in delivering your message and conveying the successes of the GCWA and the State Government. Importantly, these attributes will assist significantly when tackling issues with community and industry, researching the viability of future projects, and understanding the effects that future changes to the climate will have on the region.

The BIA believes that with the right leadership, the GCWA can build upon its vital relationship with community, industry and partner agencies and most importantly, positively reflect your passion for ensuring the best current and future outcomes for all stakeholders.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Neil Patchett, Co General Manager, e. neil@bia.org.au or m. 0418 279 465 on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darren Vaux', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Darren Vaux
President
Boating Industry Association Ltd