

10 February, 2022

The Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk
Premier QLD
Minister for the Olympics
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CITY EAST QLD 4002
e., thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au

Dear Premier,

I am writing regarding the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Boating Industry Association Ltd (BIA) is the peak body in Australia that represents the interests of recreational and light commercial boating which includes boat manufacturers, importers, yacht and boat clubs, brokers, insurers, retailers, charters, marinas, events, designers, surveyors and trades from boat builders to riggers, and more. The BIA is an advocate for boaters and the boating lifestyle, and it supports safe, responsible, and enjoyable boating.

The boating economy generates significant benefits through employment. In 2021 the industry reported a national turnover figure of \$8.835 billion, and directly employed more than 27,630 people with an additional 10,000 plus contractors. Seventy-five per cent are employed in small, family businesses which employ local people and contribute significantly to their local communities.

With more than 85 per cent of the Australian population living within 50km of the coast, it is little wonder that almost 1 in 5 households own a boat or watercraft. People of all ages, gender and ability can participate in boating across paddle, sail and power for leisure and sport. It is estimated that some 2 million people go boating each year in our State.

Boating however is more than numbers, it is a way of life for many Queensland families with most vessels being family runabouts, small paddle boats, and sail craft.

Boating has proven to be a standout choice of leisure activity through the pandemic. The combination of no international travel, the staycation phenomenon, flexible work practices, and the need to be COVID Safe, have seen the interest in boating ramp up significantly.

A boat is like a moveable island where you choose where to go, when and who with, and it supports compliance with social distancing. It is also proven to be good for your body and mind. Work in social science has shown that when we are on a boat, feel-good hormones like dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin go up, while cortisol (stress) goes down.

With this background, I would ask that you, as Premier and Minister for the Olympics, seize the opportunity for Olympic legacy infrastructure for boating.

The two greatest opportunities are for new and improved visiting vessel infrastructure particularly in South-East Queensland, and for the Olympic Sailing Regatta facilities to be planned, designed and built as legacy infrastructure for the benefit of generations to come.

The BIA applauds the plan to run the Olympic Sailing Regatta from Manly Harbour with its access to Waterloo Bay and Moreton Bay. These are excellent sailing waters for such an event, regularly hosting State, National and International regattas.

The choice of Manly provides an outstanding opportunity to deliver legacy facilities that will enable an unforgettable Olympic Sailing Regatta and will in turn improve access and safety at a key access point to Moreton Bay for people of all ages and abilities, across paddle and sail.

Currently over 1000 people learn to sail each year and 1000s more visit Queensland from other States and Countries to compete in organised regattas at Manly. Each regatta is estimated to bring \$100,000's of direct spend to the economy. The Australian Youth Championship held over six days in 2018 at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, for example, had an economic benefit of more than \$2 million.

The opportunity therefore is to build the Olympic Sailing Regatta facility and on-water infrastructure on government owned reclaimed land currently used as a reclamation area, and which is vacant and located on the eastern side of the Manly Boat Harbour (see **figure 1 Attachment A**). This site would not only give Olympic and future generations of sailors, and paddlers, direct access to the bay but would clear the harbour's relatively narrow entrance channel and inner channels of small sail and paddle craft. This would be a major improvement in safety inside the harbour and significantly improve safe navigation for all, by enabling off-the-beach craft, including youth that are participating in learn to sail programs, to launch directly into the bay (see **figure 2 Attachment A**).

The BIA understands consideration is being given to using land on the north wall of the Manly boat harbour for the Olympic Sailing Regatta headquarters as temporary infrastructure. This idea fails to seize an extraordinary opportunity to relieve existing water traffic safety issues at the entrance channel and inner channels of the harbour. It also fails to deliver Olympic legacy facilities for the benefit of future generations of Queenslanders, and will not cater for the increasing demand for safe and convenient access to the waterways.

Sadly, NSW lost a rare opportunity to retain Olympic facilities to support boating participation, training and events post the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Queensland is well placed do what NSW failed to do. That is to build what would be the best sailing regatta venue in Australia, if not the World. It would support a range of activities from youth learn to sail programs through to attracting international regattas, whilst also significantly enhancing safety and enabling Queensland to continue its long history of developing outstanding people from all walks of life and abilities who excel in aquatic sports.

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 or to accept a meeting with appropriate representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Boating Industry Association



Darren Vaux
President



Fig 1., View showing government owned reclamation area, currently unused, east of the Harbour with direct access to the bay.



Fig 2., View showing the current route (at left) for small sail and paddle craft to navigate through the Manly Boat Harbour to access the Bay and the proposed direct access achievable by use of the reclamation area as an Olympic Legacy Facility site.