

# LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

## Business Paper

### OPEN SESSION

#### ITEM

Boat Retrieval System (Slipway) Update

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board note the update on the development of the boat retrieval system

#### BACKGROUND

The planning and development of an improved boat ramp and boat retrieval system (slipway) for the Island has been under consideration for many years. In May 2014, the Board adopted the option of minor improvements to the existing boat ramp at Wilson's Landing and a separate slipway facility located at the Waste Management Facility (two site solution).

NSW Roads and Maritime Services had already approved funding of \$680,000 from the Better Boating program for an upgraded boat ramp and development of a slipway.

After considerable investigation of options for a slipway at the WMF and taking into account cost, available funding and environmental impacts, a proposal for a slipway consisting of a wheeled cradle capable of being winched across sand was developed. A development application was considered by the Board in September 2016, and consent given:

To construct a vessel launching and retrieval facility including two concrete bunded work areas, a cradle, electric winch and pollution control system at the Waste Management Facility

This was subject to deferred commencement conditions to be satisfied prior to the consent becoming operative:

#### **1. Detailed design**

Drawings showing the detailed design of the vessel launch and retrieval system are to be provided to the Board for planning review and sign off, showing all proposed structures with dimensions, materials and colours. This is also to include:

- a) Details and location of the proposed 6,000L water tank. It is to be in a location which is hidden behind the dune by vegetation and not visible from the foreshore.
- b) Details of any piling, foundations or other structures required that were not provided on the submitted plans.
- c) Details of any excavation and piping required to transport the waste generated to the wastewater management system at the Waste Management Facility.

The acceptability of the impacts of the above final designs will be considered in the review.

#### **2. Comments from NSW Department of Primary Industries – Lord Howe Island Marine Park**

Referral comments from the NSW Department of Primary Industries in relation to the Marine Park are to be obtained and it is to be demonstrated to the Boards satisfaction that their general terms of approval will be complied with.

## **COMMENT**

### ***Detailed design of cradle***

Subsequent to development consent, and in order to meet the deferred commencement conditions consultants Advisian were engaged to investigate possible modification options for the existing slipway cradle, which was originally designed to operate on rails. The cradle is owned by the LHI Slipway Association.

The task was to investigate the feasibility of the slipway cradle being modified to enable operation of a vessel launching and retrieval facility on the beach adjacent to the Waste Management Facility. This would necessitate modification of the cradle by fitting tyres or tracks to enable operation on sand.

Advisian undertook a structural and operational analysis of the cradle with two design vessels and has provided a draft report. In which their structural analysis found that the cradle had sufficient structural capacity to carry the design vessels on an uneven surface. However, operational issues and risks included:

- cradle steering issues with a longer design vessel;
- cradle stability due to soft, uneven sand surface;
- beach surface preparation to aid cradle stability; and
- required water depth to receive/dispatch vessels.

Due to concerns regarding issues and risks identified, Advisian advised that the cradle operating on sand was not the best option for the site.

### ***Consideration of other options***

As a result, alternate options for a vessel launching and retrieval facility were considered by Advisian:

1. Self-propelled tyre/track mounted cradle/trailer 'boat launcher'.
2. Elevated, piled, railed slipway with existing cradle.
3. Fixed concrete ramp to accommodate a rail or tyre mounted cradle / trailer.
4. Elevated, piled runway to support a travel lift.
5. Fixed crane mounted on a fixed platform.

Options 1 and 2 were seen to be feasible for the selected site and were explored in detail. Option 3 was not considered in more detail as a fixed concrete ramp would have coastal impacts on the beach by preventing littoral drift of sand along the beach. Options 4 and 5 were not seen as appropriate for the site.

Due to vessel size limitations, the use of a self-propelled 'boat launcher' was not considered capable of carrying the design vessels. Therefore, construction of an elevated, piled, railed slipway for use with the existing cradle was recommended by Advisian as the preferred option. LHIB staff have provided comment on the draft report and requested that the author revise and the final report.

### ***Next steps***

Given the advice from Advisian, it is therefore proposed to return to the option of an elevated, piled, railed slipway for use with the existing cradle at the Waste Management Facility. This will require additional funding and necessitate the modification of the development consent.

In late July 2017, a funding application was submitted to the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Fund, being managed through the NSW Department of Industry, for \$700,000 to match the funding already available through RMS Better Boating Program.

An application for modification of the development consent will be submitted for independent planning assessment and consideration by the Board at the November 2017 Board meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board note the update on the development of the boat retrieval system

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