

Cape Gloucester area boat ramp

Black Currant Island 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 Black Currant Island boat ramp

A new boat ramp at Black Currant Island would be located on the south-eastern side of the island (refer to Figure 1).

The island is currently accessible by 4WD vehicles only, via an existing natural causeway during mid to low tide, but inundates during high tides.

A possible boat ramp at this location would involve:

- a two lane boat ramp, approximately 50m long, extending to 0.5m below LAT (Lowest Astronomical Tide)
- a car-trailer park for 45 vehicles and turning area at top of boat ramp
- a raised and widened causeway and culverts to ensure all-tide access to island and coastal flushing (to maintain sediment flow and fish passage at higher tides)

- an access road leading direct from Hideaway Bay Drive to the causeway
- care would be required to not impact or affect cultural heritage sites such as the nearby fish trap
- there would be no requirement to change federal or state marine park boundaries.

Key pros

- Convenient location between the two local communities of Hideaway Bay and Dingo Beach.
- Island is designated as a 'recreation reserve' for community purposes.
- Reasonable natural protection from prevailing south-east winds.
- Naturally deep water close to shoreline – no dredging required.
- Rocky foreshore, which would mean minimal marine plant damage at the ramp site.
- Not within a declared Fish Habitat Area or Dugong Protection Area.
- No land acquisition required for parking.
- TMR's in-water works (which do not include a breakwater) can be delivered within the existing \$1.4 million budget.

Key cons

- Little protection from north-east winds.
- Significant land-based and marine environmental disturbance around the natural causeway.
- Requires extensive land-based works including an access road (direct across USL to Hideaway Bay Drive), a causeway and car-trailer park.
- Higher causeway (ranging from 1m up to 2.7m above HAT (=3m to 4.7m above AHD)) and culverts require complex environmental and engineering studies and approvals.

- WRC's land-side commitment is expected to cost approximately \$8-13 million for the access road, causeway works and car trailer park.
- Increased vessel traffic could disturb marine wildlife (similar to all sites).
- Reduction in visual amenity.
- The adjacent beach is rocky and boaties would need to use the boat ramp itself as a queuing facility.

Black Currant Island location overview

While Black Currant Island has good deep water access and shelter from the prevailing south-easterly winds, the land-side costs for the access road and raised causeway works pose considerable delivery challenges to both WRC and TMR.

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

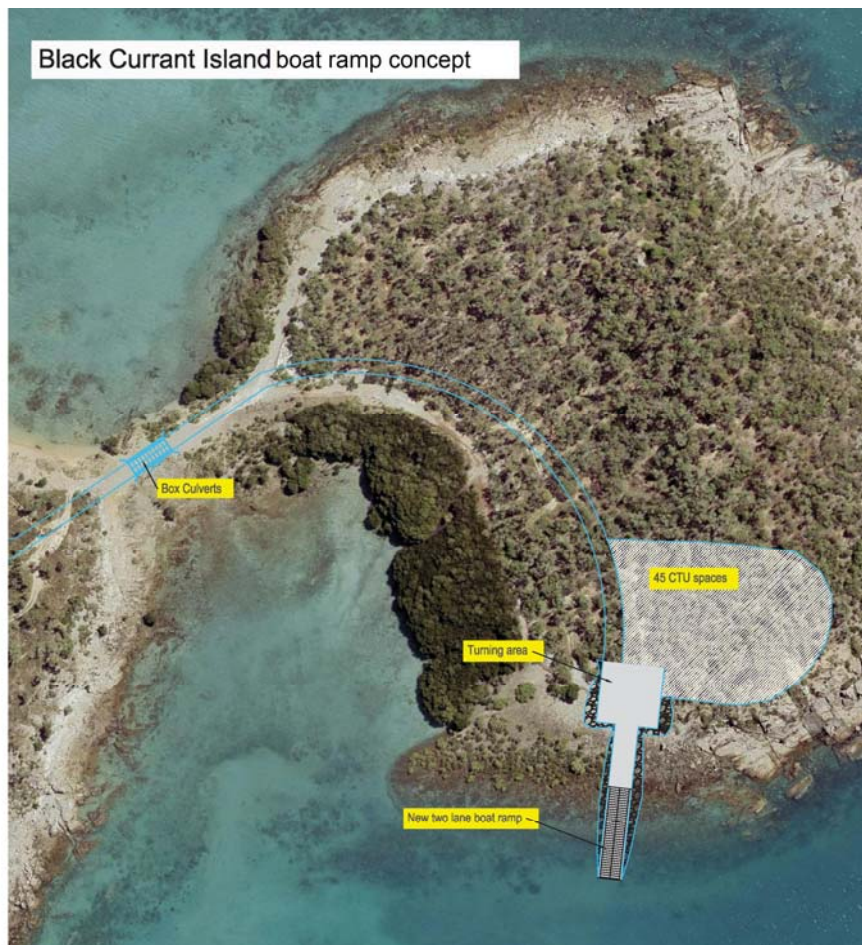


Figure 1: Proposed concept design for Black Currant Island