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For immediate Release



SHUTE HARBOUR
MARINA

Shute Harbour Studies need clarification

Responding to reports in last week's Whitsunday Times (16 August, page 13) on the Shute Harbour Planning Study, Shute Harbour Marina Project Manager, Dave Quinlan said:

“We recently held a Community Information Day and it was clear that some people are confused about the two studies into Shute Harbour that are currently taking place.

“The study mentioned in last week's paper was commissioned by the Dept of Local Government, Planning, Sport & Recreation and the Whitsunday Shire Council and is called the Shute Harbour Planning Study. Shute Harbour Marina Development Pty Ltd were not part of the reference group, and are not responsible for this study.

“However, we have been undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS), as the proposed marina project at Shute Harbour has been declared a significant project for which an EIS is required.. Our study examines (in great detail) all the implications of the proposal, and covers everything from the socio-economic benefits to environmental considerations in developing the proposed marina.

“The EIS gives the community opportunities (throughout the process) to provide feedback and participate in the consultation. The EIS Terms of Reference have recently been released and can be found on the website at www.coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au/major_projects/shute.shtm. These outline the extensive area of investigations underway.

“It's important that the two studies are not confused, and that all channels of communication are open, so that the community, and interested groups, can participate in and inform the EIS process.

“Our feedback from the community has been very positive, and most local people are keen to see the proposed development go ahead.

“This proposal will continue to be modified as information becomes available through scientific studies. If approved, the project will maintain a range of environmental safeguards and provide attractive amenities that can be enjoyed by locals and visitors. The proposal would also bring investment and create jobs.

“The Whitsunday Shire Council's strategic plan for this area includes a marina and Port Binnli Pty Ltd, the project team behind the Shute Harbour Marina proposal, have a very successful track record in marina development.

“If anyone would like more information, they can drop into the project office at the ferry terminal and have a chat, or ring 1800 689 609.”

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