



# BOWEN HARBOUR

*Now and into the Future*





# THE SITUATION

The existing Bowen Boat Harbour is a major service centre of the region at the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef. It currently provides approximately 70 wet berths, 100 pile moorings in the main basin, with another 25 located in the secondary basin and a public boat ramp.

The harbour is the heart of a long standing, generational industry in Bowen. The Bowen Harbour has been home to 7 businesses and supports 40+ jobs. The Bowen Harbour Working Group believe it is now in danger of collapse due to a lack of understanding by decision makers on key issues that will decide the future of the harbour.

The Bowen Harbour Working Group have taken a project approach “Bowen Harbour Now and Into the Future” to create a framework and common vision.

There are challenges that are clearly identified and they will either impact negatively or positively support the successful retention and strengthening of the industry in Bowen – it is all dependant on the action taken now. This first step seeks provide a single clear message to inform and engage stakeholders and advocate for the identified actions.

## PRIORITIES NOW

Ensuring that the existing industry survives and thrives, and Bowen Harbour is a recognised and attractive Safe Harbour. The immediate issues and impacts to be addressed include:

- 1. Wave Action** – resulting from previous work by TMR.  
Further wave action study and stakeholder engagement to understand the issues and identify a solution.

### ACTION SOUGHT

**\$20,000 to complete study**  
**\$400,000 to implement a solution**

- 2. Piles** – impacts of removal and lack of maintenance.

### ACTION SOUGHT

**Commitment from TMR to repair or replace pile moorings with a vision to ensure there is always sufficient available to entice boat owners to moor their vessels permanently in Bowen, cater for the seasonal prawn trawler and line fishing fleets for their unloading and layovers, and the cruising sailing and motor yachts that frequent the Whitsunday region.**

- 3. Lease Arrangements** – short term leases causing uncertainty

### ACTION SOUGHT

**Review leases on their individual business needs without following a blanket model which potentially restricts development, sales, community opportunities, and the confidence for operators to expand.**

- 4. Land Links** – creating an attractive area that links to the CBD and encourages interaction between locations.

### ACTION SOUGHT

**\$520,000 to complete cleaning and greening work and path connection to join the harbour to the CBD.**

- 5. Lack of vision and promotion**

### ACTION SOUGHT

**TMR to engage with stakeholder’s including Tourism Whitsundays, Bowen Tourism and BCE to develop a vision and implement a marketing plan to attract and increase visitation numbers.**



The Harbour currently includes the following businesses and recreation organisations:

- The North Queensland Cruising Yacht Club
- Volunteer Marine Rescue
- Queensland Department of Transport and Main Road (TMR) offices
- Two seafood processors
- A commercial slipway
- A private marina operator.

## FUTURE OPPORTUNITY

Planning now for growth to capture new commercial and tourism marine sector opportunity and ensure sustainability for existing industry based in the Bowen Harbour. Two key areas for focus have been identified for support and investigation.

- 1. Tugs to Stay** – the current wharf has a 5-year life span and the retention of the Tug Service in Bowen is considered crucial. Tugs are currently operating from Bowen, but without the necessary infrastructure the town is at risk of losing this service offer to other ports.
- 2. Bowen Harbour Service & Maintenance Centre** – a project under investigation by Whitsunday Regional Council identified as the “Bowen Marine Centre of Excellence” with the vision to develop capacity to service vessels including the Superyacht sector. The scope includes the establishment of a world class marina and shipyard, state-of-the-art common and single user infrastructure, facilities for servicing and maintaining boats from the smallest to the largest vessels and a sector specific training component.

### ACTION SOUGHT

**\$5M funding to complete a detailed Business case and complete early approvals to make this project shovel ready for private investment.**







## CONTACT US

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