



MEDIA RELEASE

New science informs future plans for The Spit's Marine Stadium

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A study into the flow of water between Marine Stadium and The Broadwater at The Spit has been completed as part of the implementation of The Spit Master Plan.

The study, commissioned by Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA), considered both infrastructure and management options to improve tidal exchange, and hence the opportunity for a wider range of water uses within Marine Stadium.

The study included research, field testing, options analysis and computer modelling.

The study recommends a management solution that limits the opportunity for illegal discharge from vessels and distancing vessels from recreational user, is the best way to improve water conditions in the picture-perfect sheltered bay near the Gold Coast Seaway.

“Computer modelling showed that even a significant infrastructure option such as connecting the northern end of Marine Stadium to The Broadwater via a channel end would not adequately improve the flow and quality of water.”

The study, undertaken in response to the community's desire for the flow of water to be assisted, acknowledged that between 60 to 80 vessels anchor at any given time with suggestions it is likely that sewage and grey water is illegally discharged directly into Marine Stadium by vessels.

GCWA Chief Executive Officer Chris Derksema said that field testing demonstrated that the water in the northern end of Marine Stadium has limited tidal exchange with The Broadwater.

“A management option that could include one or several approaches such as education, zoning and compliance was demonstrated by the findings to be a cost-effective solution.” Mr Derksema said.

The recommendation for a management option will be used to inform GCWA's planning for the future of Marine Stadium that is currently underway.

Significant community and industry consultation has already been undertaken in the creation of the plan, and the findings of this Tidal Exchange study will help finalise the plan to sustainably manage the multi-functional waterway.

Spokesperson for the Save Our Broadwater Association and former City Councillor, Alan Rickard, said Save Our Broadwater has fought hard for many years to keep this special part of the city as public open space.

“We are pleased to see this study finds solutions to our concerns for Marine Stadium,”

“Save Our Broadwater supports use of the area for events such as outriggers and triathlon. Improved community use of The Spit will preserve access for all Gold Coasters for generations to come.” Mr Rickard said.

Visit GCWA’s website to learn more about the implementation of The Spit Master Plan:

<https://gcwa.qld.gov.au/spit-master-plan> .

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