

**From:** [justin justin](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Mythen](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Boat ramp Inspections please forward to committee and councillors  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 7:38:41 PM

---

----- Original Message -----

From: justin justin <[justin@ficr.com.au](mailto:justin@ficr.com.au)>  
To:  
Date: at  
Subject: Boat ramp Inspections

Boat Ramp Committee Meeting to inspect council boat ramps at Settlement Point and Palana on the 16/06/2023

Committee members Present Dennis Cooper Andrew Donnellan Robyn Walker Richard Harley Chris Wilson

#### SETTLEMENT POINT

Overview: Ramp in its present condition is only really suitable for boats under 6 meters in length because of washouts and dips in the ramp that would cause larger boat trailers to bottom out and cause damage to the trailer. It would also require at least 2 experienced boating people to launch a boat as there isn't anything for a boat to safely lay up against once launched while you park your vehicle and trailer and very difficult to retrieve passengers one boat is launched same issues come into play when retrieving a boat from the water.

#### Suggested repairs and upgrades

1 Existing timber rail on the southern side of the ramp be totally replaced to prevent backing a boat trailer over the edge of the ramp the existing rail has been broken and half of it is actually missing. It was suggested this be replaced with 125mmx125mm rail made out of hardwood or a type of plastic that will not rot. Materials required are 20 meters of 125mm x125mm hardwood or plastic railing, 12 x 400mmx16mm threaded rods,s and enough chem set to glue rods into rock.

2 Dip in ramp be looked at by a qualified person to see how this may be rectified it has been fixed before but due to the lack of thickness in the concrete it has broken up and is now nonexistent, Michael Sherriff's name was mentioned as someone who may be able to have a look and come up with some suggestions.

3 2 poles with fenders be erected at the bottom of the ramp on the southern side of the ramp 1 at the end and one 3 meters from the end so boats can lay up against them after being launched and being retrieved these poles should be able to be fastened to the side of the existing ramp.

I would also like to discuss with the committee the option of putting another 2 poles with fenders on the north side of the ramp to allow for different wind directions( This was not discussed at this meeting)

4 Turning area and car park area at the top of the ramp are very washed out and would cause most boat trailers to belly out in their present state. All that is required to fix the problem is some gravel and better drainage to stop washouts from recurring the committee felt that this was more a road issue and the council should fix this without using any of the funds allocated to boat ramp repairs and upgrades.

#### Future Projects

To have a jetty on one side of the ramp, it was agreed that it would be a very expensive exercise and would require expert advice on the best place for it and the best way to go about building it.

#### PALANA

Overview: The ramp itself is in good condition but the wharf needs some major attention and if maintenance isn't done in the near future then a king tide and rough weather could dislodge the wharf from the rocks. The lack of room for parking vehicles with trailers is another issue that was discussed at length.

Using an excavator to move some rocks and changing the existing channel in and out of the boat ramp was discussed and agreed that it may be achievable.

#### Suggested repairs and upgrades

1 To replace all galvanized brackets that are holding the wharf in place with stainless brackets, and stainless bolts the existing brackets and bolts are very corroded and some have already broken in half and aren't holding anything. It was suggested that all brackets be replaced with 10mmx100mm L brackets( Around a 100 Brackets in total) as there are several different size brackets being used due to them being made to suit different rock formations it was suggested to buy 2 6-meter lengths of 10mmx100mm stainless flat plate and have Michael Hook make the brackets.

2 Replace timber that ties all poles together at the bottom and midway up the poles a lot of the existing ones are broken or missing this will require 42meters of 100mm x 35mm hardwood timber.

3 Solar light on the end of the wharf

4 Car parking area needs to be made bigger Chris wilson advised that the land was owned by National Parks and any changes would need to be discussed with them. It was suggested to ask the council to approach national parks and see what can be done it was suggested to move dirt from one side of the parking area to create fill for the other side this would increase the size of the car park and make it level. Committee agreed that they felt the expense for any car parking area should be covered by the council not out of boat ramp funds as they are a road issue.

5 Moving the channel too in front of the boat ramp was discussed and it was agreed that it may be possible to dig rocks out from in front of the ramp and move them into the existing channel boat owners use creating a breakwater if this was achieved it would allow for safer entry in rough seas and make Palana an all tidal ramp for smaller boats. This may be able to be achieved with a decent size excavator at low tide if permission was granted the committee

agreed we could get this done with very little expense by asking for donations of a machine and time from boat owners who have access to the equipment and use the ramp regularly.(No blasting required)

#### Future Projects

If the excavation of rocks was unsuccessful to make it an all-tidal ramp then go through the process to get approval to blast the existing channel to achieve enough depth to get in and out at any tide.

#### Badger Corner

We didn't visit badger corner but it was discussed what we could do down there and the committee agreed that we should tread carefully or we could lose the ramp altogether but wondered if some off-the-record questions could be asked on how the council could get control of the land between the road and ramp so down the track we may be able to apply for funding to do repairs and maybe a jetty at some point.

After discussions with a couple of other committee members and we all agreed that the council should put out a letter to the public stating that no matter what upgrades or repairs are done at any of the council boat ramps it will have no effect on them or the kids being able to swim or use these areas as they always have done.

I personally would hope there are enough funds to get all repairs and upgrades done that have been suggested including the new boat ramp in Whitemark and if we come up short on funds council may be able to dig into their budget or the committee could run a fundraiser or something to raise enough funds to finish all projects.

Regards Justin