

**Minister's Environment Round Table**  
**Issue Brief - for Discussion with Minister Scanlon**

<b>Name</b>	Shute Harbour Marina Development (SHMD)
<b>Organisation</b>	Whitsunday Conservation Council (WCC)
<b>Issue</b>	
<b>Outline of issue</b>	The Shute Harbour Marina Development was proposed decades ago. To date no infrastructure or dredging works have commenced. WCC considers that because of the seriously outdated engineering being used by the proponent and with evidence of the cyclonic destruction of the Hinchinbrook Marina, WCC believes that if built, this project will be a disaster waiting to happen and impacts of its construction and completed form and use will be catastrophic to the pristine environment of Shute Harbour & adjacent GBRMPark.
<b>Narrative/Case study</b>	WCC group member Save Our Foreshore (SOF) advised WCC that SHMD only hold a development lease. 15 Aug 22 in response to Pat Weir MP question in parliament, Scott Stewart MP Minister for Resources advised "that the lessee applied to amend the milestone conditions on the current lease. Agents for SHMD are advertising 'Waterfront allotments and berths from \$1.75M. Private berths from \$165,000.' Own a piece of paradise in the Whitsundays.' How is this advertising possible while SHMD only hold a development lease? WCC main concerns are environmental. The recent renovation of the Whitsunday Councils Shute Harbour Terminal resulted in expenses overrun of \$40M. A great part of this was for GeoTech complications on the sea bed.
<b>Demonstration of power around the issue</b>	There has been consistent opposition from residents of Shute Harbour, the Whitsunday community and visitors. Thousands of signatures to petitions have been gathered over the years and several presentations made to Community Cabinets and Ministers. Member for Whitsunday Amanda Camm is supportive of our concerns. Minister Scanlon viewed the proposed site with WCC during her visit 7 December 2021. Minister Scanlon expressed her doubts and especially how such a development could secure insurance in todays financial world. On this visit it was apparent that the proponent was not even maintaining the site. Damage from Cyclone Debbie 2017 i.e., undercutting of Shute Harbour Road exposing service pipes had not been repaired. Such negligence should preclude SHMD from obtaining a term lease.
<b>Recommended Action for Minister</b>	The terms and type of SHMD's lease needs to be made public. SHMD's engineering plans need to be assessed against current expertise.
<b>Desired next step</b>	Due to great uncertainty of insurability and financial viability of this project that Minister Scanlon or the Deputy Premium Miles call in this proposal