



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 23 FEBRUARY 2010

### **Marine Queensland Voices Concerns With Ongoing Tiplers Debacle**

Marine Queensland today voiced serious concerns with the Gold Coast City Council's handling of the Tiplers Resort.

Marine destinations are essential community and tourism facilities within the Gold Coast region. Boating destinations are important community assets and are a critical part of the recreational and light commercial marine industry For the Gold Coast. They are essential for many community boating clubs, marine tourism operators and marine industry operators.

Marine Queensland General Manager, Don Jones, said the acquisition and subsequent closure by Council of the Tiplers Resort has significant implications for the marine industry in the region and called on Council to urgently enter into meaningful consultation with the marine industry.

"The handling of this issue leaves much to be desired. It is far more important than petty local politics and face saving. We have consistently said we have a plan for this destination which will deliver many benefits to the local community as well as visitors and the industries that support them in the region. To date no meaningful consultation has occurred and it is time to engage with the experts to deliver a solution to the Gold Coast Community urgently." said Jones.

The recreational marine industry on the Gold Coast is one of the largest within Australia. It creates and supports many jobs, creates wealth for the local community and plays a critical role in the management of pristine marine environments. Activities such as boating and fishing have become popular and affordable holiday and recreation alternatives for visitors to the region. However, the Council's handling of this issue will have significant implications for the Marine Industry as well as Tourism and the many supporting industries in the region.

"This decision will not only affect recreational boat owners, but will have a significant impact on Queensland's marine industry as a whole. The ongoing waste of community funds should cease immediately." stated Jones.

"There are sensible solutions to this issue that will advantage the gold Coast community and provide a real return on this important community asset," said Jones. "This issue has dragged on for far too long. We call on the Mayor and Councilors to urgently consult with the industry."

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**Marine Queensland** is the peak industry association that represents the interests of the marine industry in Queensland. Its membership spans all facets of the recreation and light commercial marine industry including:

- Marine Brokers;
- Marine Dealers and retailers;
- Boat Manufacturers;
- Boat syndicators;
- Charter and Marine Tourism Operators;
- Marine Surveyors;
- The Queensland Small Craft Council (Recreational Boat Clubs);
- Marina Operators and Developers;
- Boat licensing trainers and educators;
- Marine infrastructure providers;
- Marine Insurers and Financiers.