



MeridienMarinas
ABEL POINT

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Whitsunday Transit to service Abel Point

It's been a long time coming but Abel Point Marina may soon be serviced by a regular bus run in a move to combat persistent parking problems at the popular facility.

Since the construction of a boat ramp in 1998 at Abel Point Marina, Council has found the demand for both boat trailer parking and car parking far exceeded the available spaces.

The lack of spaces, particularly at weekends, sees vehicles and boat trailers occupying any available spot in table drains and verges within walking distance of the marina and boat ramp.

It is estimated that at peak demand there are more vehicles parked outside of marked bays in the car park, than within them.

The possibility of an Abel Point bus route comes after recent discussions between Meridian Marina, Whitsunday Transit and Council.

In November last year an offer was made for Meridien to install, at Meridien's cost, pay and display parking and necessary supporting signage within the Council car park with the shared profit, after expenses, to be between Meridien and Council.

Additionally Meridien requested Council close the existing bus stop at the roundabout at the end of Shingley Drive, and move this shelter to a location within Council's boat trailer parking area.

Meridien stated that a bus route would be supported by staff and would reduce parking demand at this location.

On January 20, 2009 Council received correspondence from Whitsunday Transit requesting that future planning applications, which involve significant sites, be assessed with public transport facilities in mind.

On February 13 they wrote to council again, this time requesting Council support a bus stop within the Abel Point Marina precinct. Whitsunday Transit has applied to Queensland Transport for Q-Connect to subsidise a bus route to service the marina.

According to a Council report Whitsunday Transport believes a public bus route would reduce the parking demand at this location, and that a temporary arrangement would suffice until further development provided a fully compliant, premium public bus stop.

Since this correspondence Council officers met with representatives from both Meridien and Whitsunday Transit on site on January 15, and again on March 5 to discuss options regarding a public bus stop.

Whitsunday Transit has advised they have applied for subsidy from Queensland Transport, and if this subsidy is approved they will start a bus service with a small bus at first to find out what demand exists for this service.