

Peak maritime body releases bold plan to revitalise Moreton Bay region

The billion-dollar tourism potential of Moreton Bay could be realised in a bold plan to open up some of the world's largest sand islands to a great trek.

Antonia O'Flaherty, The Courier-Mail
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A GREAT trek across some of the world's largest sand islands in southeast Queensland is part a peak maritime body's bold plan to encourage governments to tap into the billion-dollar tourism trove of Moreton Bay.

The Moreton Maritime Alliance tonight pitched its strategic plan for Moreton Bay to local, state and federal officials at a roundtable meeting, in an urgent bid to persuade government to devote much-needed investment and attention into the largely forgotten region.

- [More tourists splashing cash on Straddie](#)
- [\\$4.5m Straddie cultural centre revealed](#)
- [New ferry terminals on bay islands](#)

Moreton Bay Vision. The Great Sand Island Trek. Picture: Supplied
The plan included the Great Sand Island Trek which would draw global hikers to the southeast corner to trek three of the largest sand islands in the world: Bribie Island, Moreton Island and Stradbroke Island.

Moreton Maritime Alliance director Michael Bailey said the walk would be able to compete with some of the greatest tourism treks of the world tapping into the tourism attraction that is Moreton Bay.

The Great Sand Island Trek

Trek across the three largest sand islands in the world!

Bribie Is
Island village, pubs, beaches, bush tracks, wetlands, kayaking.

Moreton Is
Tangalooma wrecks, sand dunes, lush bush, beaches, snorkelling, kayaking, dolphins, turtles.

Stradbroke Is
Island village, pubs, beaches, turquoise water, snorkelling, diving, dolphins, turtles, sand dunes.

Map locations: CALOUNDRA, OCEAN BEACH & FORTÉ BRIBIE, LIME POCKET, MISSION PT, POVERTY CK, GALLAGHER PT, BONGAREE, SANDSTONE PT, WOORIM, TANGALOOMA, (NEW) WELSHBY 4TH LAGOON, (NEW) LUCINDA BAY, (NEW) WHITE ROCK / ROUS BATTERY, BLUE LAGOON, NORTH POINT / CAPE MORETON, BULWER, COWAN COWAN, COORINGAL, AMITY POINT, POINT LOOKOUT, MAIN BEACH, SWAN BAY, (NEW) CRUSOE ISLAND, MCCARENS, TIPPLERS, COURAN COVE, NORTH AND SOUTH CURRIE, SOUTHPORT, BRISBANE, MANLY, DUNWICH, MAIN BEACH.

The inaugural six-day, 150km trek is set to be walked over Easter next year by key South East figures, and the indigenous Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and Kabbi Kabbi, which are already in planning talks.

The pilot walk will see stakeholders prove the idea's feasibility and test the terrain.

“It would include travelling on boats between islands and would offer visitors the chance to snorkel and dive, see the dolphins, swim in lagoons, kayak down the Pumicestone passage and stay in some of the amazing accommodation venues that SEQ has to offer,” Mr Bailey said.

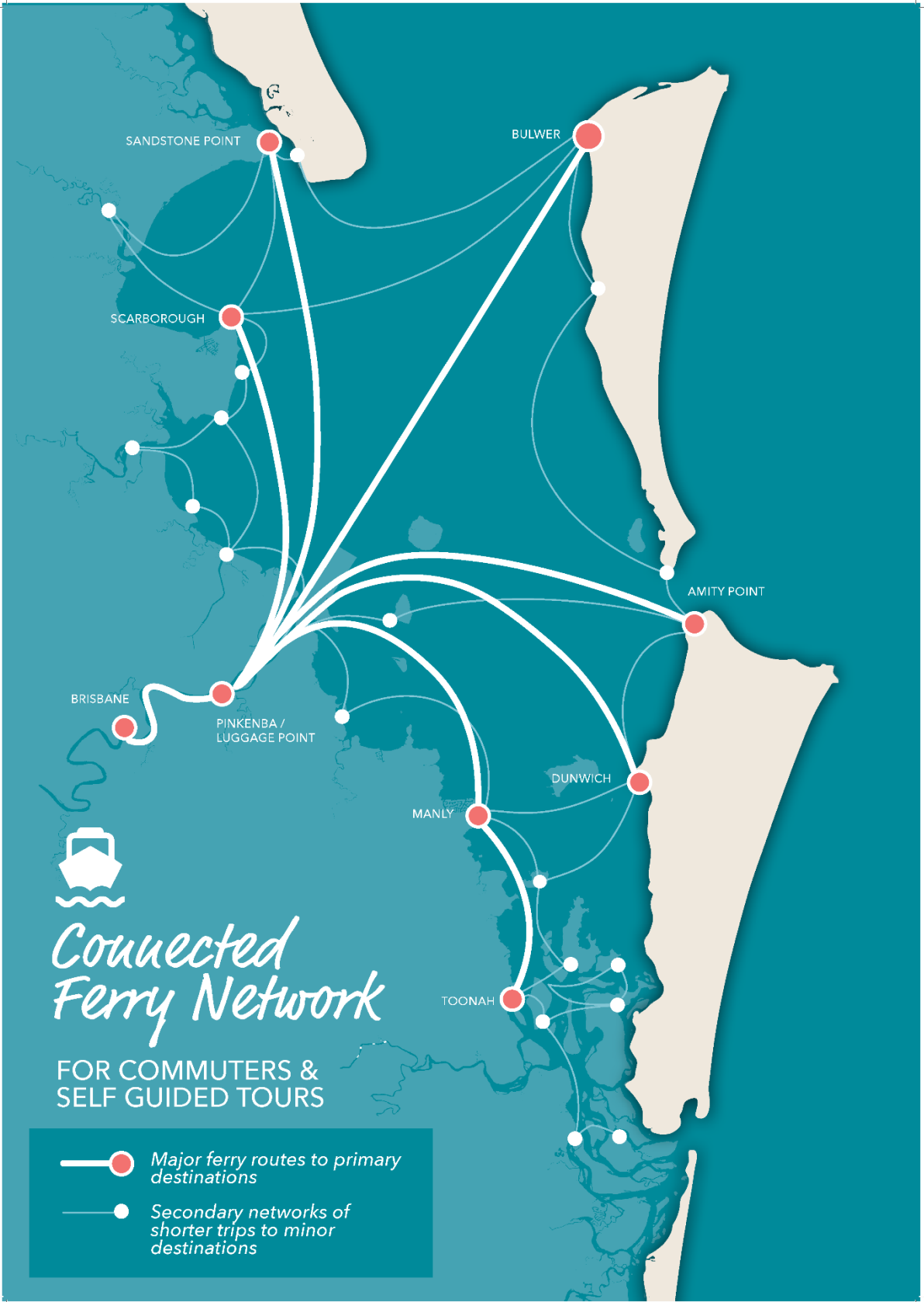
But he said it was just one of the things the region had to offer, with the plan suggesting upgrades and new harbours among other maritime infrastructure including jetties, museums and community buildings.



Maritime and Marine Museum. Picture: UQ Student Yuri Valle





Maritime Museum and Library. Picture: UQ Student Manasa Chegu

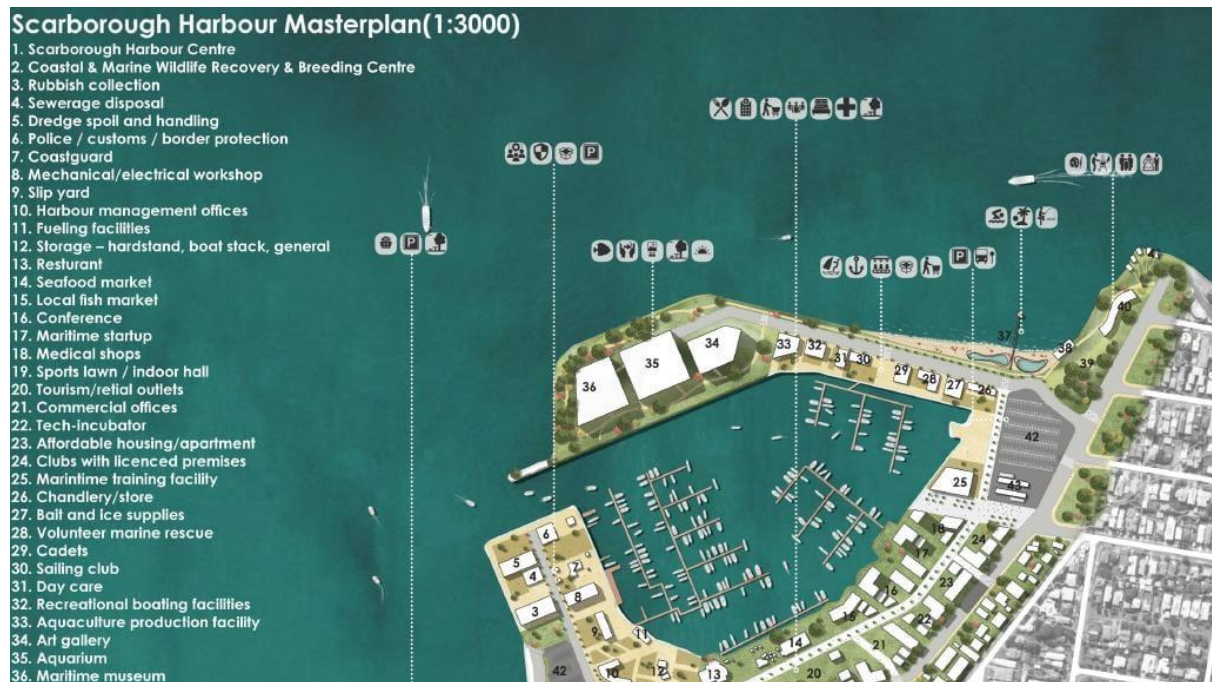


Connected Ferry Network

FOR COMMUTERS & SELF GUIDED TOURS

-  Major ferry routes to primary destinations
-  Secondary networks of shorter trips to minor destinations

University of Queensland Masters of Architecture Students were commissioned to redesign Scarborough harbour to demonstrate the economic and tourism opportunities “that are available in underdeveloped public harbours in Moreton Bay,” Mr Bailey said.



Moreton Bay Vision. Master Plan Option 2. Picture: Supplied

He said a fast ferry network could connect major hubs within Moreton Bay with the City and the new Brisbane terminal and has the capacity to transform how the Bay is used and enjoyed.

“The plan shows how the Bay could operate like Sydney Harbour, connecting major destinations and offering commuters and tourists a scenic travel alternative to the congested road and rail network.”

Redcliffe Peninsula Chamber of Commerce President Brad Flynn said while the area was often perceived as a coastal haven, the reality that the socio-economic statistics don’t reflect that.

“The opportunity is now for use to realise some of these initiatives offered by the creation of the Moreton Bay Precinct,” he said.

“It’s about creating a world-class maritime precinct as a foundation for turning around the socio-economics through the number of jobs created in these projects.

“Sitting back at this point would be a travesty given what’s on offer.”