

[Previous Story](#)[Next Story](#)*Article rank* | 17 Mar 2021 | *The Cairns Post* | *MATTEA KEARNEY*

# Fees waived until 2022

CAIRNS tourist boat operators will get a welcome boost, despite the upcoming JobKeeper cut-off date, as the state government announces a fee relief extension until mid-2022.

Fees at the Cairns Marlin Marina have been waived for reef fleet operators since February last year in what was initially a six-month relief package as tourism operators first felt the effects of COVID.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said the rebates would equate to over \$10m in financial assistance for reef fleet operators and port tenants since the pandemic began.

"With the Prime Minister set to cut off JobKeeper on March 28, things won't get any easier. Tourism operators in the Far North need all the help they can get right now," she said.

"This fee relief will put cash back into the pockets of tourism operators doing it tough — helping to safeguard the jobs of workers in this industry."

Transport and Main Roads

Minister Mark Bailey said reef fleet operators were among the first businesses to be hit by the repercussions of the pandemic, and they would also be among the last to return to normal.

He said the operators would continue to receive a 100 per cent rebate until June 30.

"From 1 July this year to 30 June 2022, Ports North will move to a rebate model based on overall passengers using the Marlin marina compared to pre-COVID passenger numbers," he said. "The existing 50 per cent passenger charge rebate will remain until 30 June 2021, before being progressively phased out by December 2021."

Mr Bailey said Ports North also remained committed to freezing the Cairns Marlin Marina charges for commercial operators until January 2023.

Member for Cairns Michael Healy said it was important to support domestic tourism as much as possible while international borders were closed.

"I've lobbied for this extension for several months and given the expectation that international travel is unlikely to resume in any significant capacity until 2022, we'll continue to stand by Cairns tourism businesses and the local workforce," he said.

"The voucher plan announced by the Palaszczuk government will help us to grow our domestic visitor base into the future and continuing fee relief gives local operators more certainty around their financial situation for the year ahead."



Annastacia Palaszczuk

The announcement follows the state government's push for Queenslanders to travel to the Far North by releasing 15,000 travel vouchers in a bid to help tourism operators.

This article was shared by a user of PressReader - an online source of publications from around the world. PressReader contains copyrighted material, trademarks and other proprietary information. Receipt of this article should not be interpreted as grant of any licenses express or implied, to the intellectual property of PressReader or publishers of publications presented. PressReader, 200-13111 Vanier Place, Richmond BC V6V 2J1, Canada Phone: +1 604 278 4604 © 2003-2020 PressReader Inc. All rights reserved. Terms of Use: <http://care.pressreader.com/hc/articles/206528495-Terms-of-Use> Privacy Policy: <http://care.pressreader.com/hc/articles/205818089-Privacy-Policy>

[Previous Story](#)[Next Story](#)