

# Marina Resort to begin 2023

**Amy Roulston**

BRISBANE-based researcher and director of Aurelius, Peter Bell, presented his report entitled 'State of the Whitsundays' on Thursday, November 10, at the Whitsunday Marine Club, Cannonvale.

It was hosted by Shute Harbour Marina Resort, who believe the Aurelius research highlights the opportunity for the Whitsundays to capitalise on the region's growth potential, through its \$350m Shute Harbour Marina Resort project.

The development took a two-year hiatus, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but is back in full swing with works expected to begin early in 2023.

Taylor's Property Specialists CEO Rob Taylor confirmed there had been very

strong interest, with more than 3,000 enquires and close to \$30m in sales commitments, currently.

Shute Harbour Marina Development managing director Sam Wade said he was delighted with the support the Shute Harbour Marina resort had received so far.

"We've been delighted with the community and business support for Shute Harbour Marina resort," Mr Wade said.

"It is anticipated that 450 jobs will be created during the construction stage of the marina and up to 245 ongoing jobs, once fully operational.

"Other community benefits include a cyclone shelter, marine rescue facilities, reef conservation fund and public access to the marina precinct."



Mr Wade confirmed there would be an environmental impact to seagrass in the area, but that restoration was a priority.

"There will be an impact on the seagrass in the marina bay, we've got a comprehensive environmental plan in place to be able to replace that and manage any other environmental impacts."

The project is intended to meet the Whitsundays' high

boating demands, with the Aurelius Report revealing that the recent growth in boat ownership had highlighted an urgent need for increased storage capacity, especially for on-water marina berths.

"Infrastructure spending on new and existing facilities is vital if Queensland's marine industry is to maintain its position as Australia's boating capital," Mr Wade said.

The project has been in the planning and approval stage for nearly 20 years, and has been met with community resistance.

At Save Our Foreshore's AGM, on Thursday, October 27, president Suzette Pelt said Bowen's existing Harbour would be a more ideal location.

"The Australian Insurance industry has come out hard on the risks of developing in

places that are at risk from climate change, including waterfront/storm surge sites," she said.

"There is a better location, if the need is so urgent - that is Bowen's existing harbour, ideal for a redevelopment marina site."