

Inquest into the death of Leila Michelle Trott

Ms Trott was the skipper of a tourist vessel which was moored off Green Island. A smaller tender vessel was attached to the sailing vessel and came adrift. Ms Trott decided to swim to another vessel to try and retrieve the tender. She was swimming strongly and was nearing the other vessel when she was last seen. Possibly due to the physical stress involved in the swim, she suffered a cardiac arrhythmia, probably became unconscious and drowned.

Deputy State Coroner John Lock delivered his findings of inquest on 16 March 2017.

The Queensland Government responds to recommendations directed to government agencies at inquests by informing the community if a recommendation will be implemented or the reason why a recommendation is not supported.

The departments named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

Recommendation 1

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Marine Safety Queensland, Australian Marine Safety Authority and the Queensland Police Service consider closer inter-agency cooperation and review the circumstances of this death and the involvement of their respective agencies, and determine whether further action should be taken to update any existing memoranda of understanding and/or provide further training to their staff in relation to their operation.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is in progress.

Responsible agency: The Office of Industrial Relations (lead) supported by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service.

On 9 August 2017 the Queensland Government responded:

Representatives from the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR), Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) met in March 2017 to address the coroner's recommendation.

A current memorandum of understanding exists between OIR and MSQ. However, as the coroner noted, the MOU's between Australian Marine Safety Authority (AMSA) and MSQ with state workplace health and safety agencies do not include activities associated with domestic commercial vessels operating only in Australian waters, such as the vessel Ms Trott was skippering. The government will progress amendments to the memorandum of understanding to include regulation of domestic commercial vessels.

The government will also review and consider amending the scope of the memorandum of understanding to include QPS.

The OIR and QPS will attend quarterly compliance meetings facilitated by MSQ to enhance inter-agency cooperation.