

Current discussions have focused on static property being covered by the reinsurance pool but affordability and availability of marine insurance in Northern Australia is also being brought to the forefront in round-table discussions.

NAIL believes it is imperative the reinsurance pool considers Marine Insurance in its scope.

We spoke to Sharon McNally Director of Cumberland Charter Yachts and QLD Council Member of Boating Industry Association (BIA) on the issue of Marine Insurance.

“Since Cyclone Debbie (2017) we have seen insurance premium increases of 40%-50%. In recent years, I have spoken to several different brokers for quotes each year and we are finding there are less and less insurers willing to cover us, last year 13 were contacted, all but one turned us down. Currently there is only one viable insurer that offers charter boat insurance in North Queensland and, if they stop providing insurance or continue to increase premium, it may no longer be viable for many marine businesses in North Queensland to continue operating.”

“If affordability and availability of insurance for the marine industry is not addressed as part of the Federal Government Reinsurance Pool many marine businesses will simply take their boats to other parts of Australia. Marine tourism is a vital part of the region’s economies in Northern Australia including the Whitsunday’s where Cumberland Charter Yachts is based. People travel the world for bareboating experiences and if there are no bareboat operators (like my business), those tourists will find other holiday destinations, like Fiji, Tahiti and the Med.”

NAIL says - The flow on effect of a contraction in marine business in Northern Australia is significant for towns dependant on the marine industry. The Federal Government needs to consider not only marine businesses but the many businesses that service the marine industry and rely on the marine industry to remain in Northern Australia.