

Leo Hoff, owner of Currumbin Boatshed, sees tough times ahead if the closed border denies sun-soaking interstate travellers.
 PHOTO: PRAO WILLIAMS

BOATSHED UP CURRUMBIN CREEK WITH NO PADDLE



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LEO Hoff loves to entertain Gold Coasters at his tackle and watercraft hire shop but is missing "the fellas from down south".

Currumbin Boatshed, on the shore of Currumbin Creek, has been a hive of activity for more than 40 years.

But owner Mr Hoff said during winter his biggest customers were state border-hopping tourists from Victoria, NSW and Canberra.

Mr Hoff said business had been dying since borders into Queensland were closed March 26.

"Over the cooler months, like now and through winter, we have a lot of fellas from down south who come to the Coast to have fun in the sun," he said.

"They often venture to businesses like ours.

"If the borders stay closed and they can't come, it's going to be really hard."

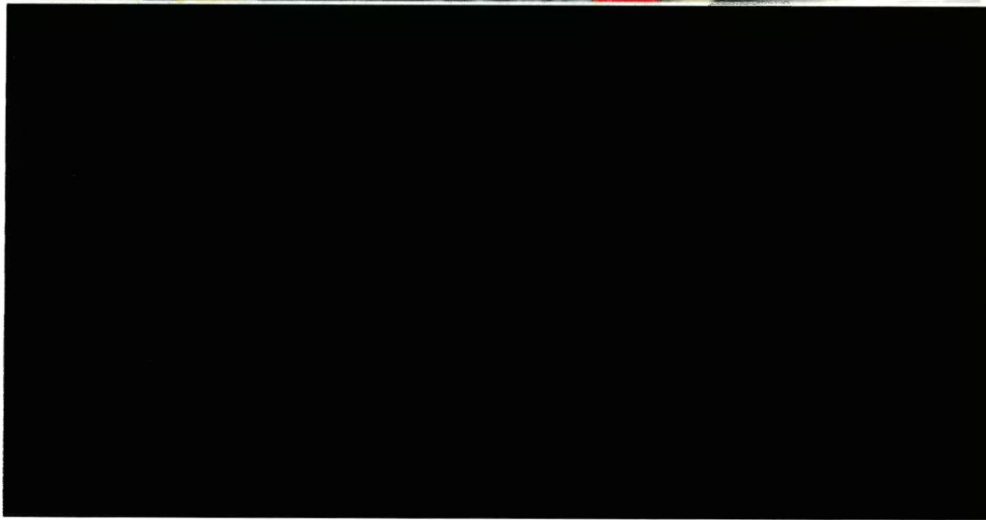
Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk warns borders could remain closed until September despite recent easing of some restrictions.

Currumbin Aikido Surf School owner Sam Chilcott said: "I am not a health expert but it would be a good thing if they could relax the laws a little bit and see how we go."

"We are hanging on to the hope domestic tourism will pick up."

Old Scuba Dive owner Mark Salter said he did not want the borders to open until "everything was 100 per cent right".

"If we get a boom of tourists and the infection spreads - we could be in a lot of trouble," Mr Salter said.



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