



NOOSA RIVER MANAGEMENT

Anchoring, Mooring and Living on Board
Commercial activities

Community Jury Presentation
22 August 2015

Overview



- Noosa River values
- Community Jury topic
- What are the issues of concern?
 - anchoring
 - mooring
 - living on board vessels
 - commercial activities
- Current management arrangements
- Potential future management options
- Jury questions?



























Community Jury topic



How can we manage the Noosa River better?

What role should Council play and what resources should Council apply?

In scope

- Anchoring, mooring and living on board vessels
- Commercial jetty leases and commercial use of the river.

Community Jury topic (cont'd)



Out of scope

- commercial and recreational fishing
- riverbank erosion
- riverbank restoration
- pollution from runoff

Other river-related activities

- Submission to State Fisheries Review
- Munna Point sand groynes and dredging
- Noosa River hydrodynamic modelling
- Healthy Waterways (water quality monitoring)
- The Nature Conservancy projects
 - Historic Fishing Research
 - Oyster Bed Trials

What are the issues of concern?



We understand that there are lots of issues, but Council is mainly focussing on

- Abandoned and derelict vessels
- Visual amenity, particularly from derelict houseboats
- Pollution of the river from vessels
- Use of the river for anchoring and living on board
- Compliance with regulations and conditions
- Affect of moorings in declared Fish Habitat Areas
- Commercial leases not related to boating
- Commercial leases extending on to public land, including increases in number of watercraft for hire
- Commercial activities occurring at public boat ramps (e.g. pick up/drop off of passengers).

Anchoring



- Anchoring
 - Very few restrictions on where you can anchor
 - No provisions to restrict long term unattended anchoring

Moorings



- Moorings
 - 127 moorings
 - Mooring density at capacity
 - Minimal fee
 - All are ‘restricted’ mooring permits
 - Permit holder supplies the mooring apparatus
 - Permit holder is responsible for maintaining the mooring.

Living on Board



- Living on Board (LOB)
 - 17 permits
 - No fee
 - Six monthly renewal
 - No new approvals since 2004
 - Conditions stipulate waste holding tank and pump out requirements (unknown compliance)
 - Number of LOBs without a permit is unknown

Commercial Leases



- Commercial leases
 - 14 leases along the river foreshore
 - State administers leases
 - Council manage public foreshore areas
 - Lease fees range from \$1,100 to \$31,500 pa
 - Lease timeframes were 20 years, recently extended to 30 years
 - Some leases approved for operations not related to boating.

Current management arrangements



Who does what at the State?

- **Maritime Safety Queensland** (part of the Department of Transport)
 - manage compliance via a system of complaint and information referrals to other State agencies.
- **Boat Harbours Team**
 - anchoring, mooring, grounding and LOB.
 - issue mooring and LOB permits.
- **Boating and Fisheries Patrol / Qld Police Service**
 - anchoring and mooring
 - waste holding systems
 - conduct marine safety campaigns
 - regulate Noosa River Marine Zones.
- **Department of Natural Resources**
 - Administer commercial jetty leases.
- **Department of Environment & Heritage Protection**
 - construction approvals, dredge permits etc.

What has Council been doing?



- Discussing options with Maritime Safety Queensland
- Positive talks resulting in a number of alternatives that could be considered
- Need to undertake further assessment:
 - Consultation (including Community Jury)
 - Desired outcomes
 - Legislative changes (up to 2 years)
 - Cost

Potential future management options



Anchoring

- Restrict unattended anchoring
- Create anchoring free areas
- Control the 'length of stay'
- Introduce permits and fees to anchor and/or live on board
- Introduce permit 'condition' to ensure vessels
 - have appropriate waste holding tanks and pump out facilities
 - are in a seaworthy condition.

Who is the best agency to provide administration and regulatory activities?

Potential future management options



Moorings

- Review mooring permit conditions
- Review the use of, and placement of moorings to ensure vessels
 - don't contribute to river clutter
 - are in a seaworthy condition
 - have waste holding tanks and pump out facilities
- Relocate moorings in declared Fish Habitat Areas
- Introduce environmentally friendly moorings
- Moorings provided by the mooring manager
- Introduce 'shared' moorings and 'visitor' moorings
- Investigate how mooring fees can be applied.

Who is the best agency to provide administration and regulatory activities?

Potential future management options



Living on Board (LOB)

- Review the circumstances of LOB permits
- User pay system introduced?
- Should LOB vessels in the Noosa River system be restricted?

Who is the best agency to provide administration and regulatory activities?

Potential future management options



Commercial Jetty Leases

- Proposed amendments to the Noosa Plan
 - restrict the size of buildings on jetties
 - do not increase the overall scale and intensity of commercial operations
 - incorporate leased areas over the water (currently only the land area of commercial leases is covered)
- Install markers to define lease areas to help Council better manage encroachments onto the public foreshore.
- Investigate applying general rates to commercial jetty leases.

Who is the best agency to provide administration and regulatory activities?

Potential future management options



Commercial use of the river

- What commercial uses should be allowed in the river?
 - businesses operating from anchor or an approved mooring
 - new floating shops permanently attached to a jetty
 - sale of food from a vessel to customers on the river bank
 - commercial use of amphibious vessels
 - new commercial jet ski businesses
 - commercial use of Jetlev and Flyboard equipment.
- Review and update guidelines for new businesses.

Who is the best agency to provide administration and regulatory activities?

Thank you



- Jury questions?
- More details in the Noosa River information pack



Council's vision for the Noosa River is that it is protected for future generations