

Scarce details on river use says juror

15th Jan 2016 – Noosa News

A NOOSA River community juror has voiced her frustration at a lack of "nitty gritty" information on what controls and checks are taking place on the water and was dismayed it costs only \$50 a year to secure a mooring there.

The woman said freehold moorings on the Gold Coast "sell for over \$400,000".

And while she said no one was suggesting privatising the system in this way, she indicated charges were at the heart of concerns about Noosa Council possibly taking on management of the river.

"I mean, \$50 a year. That's ludicrous for our river," she said during a feedback session to Noosa councillors this week.

Mayor Noel Playford commented: "We charge that much for a night at the caravan park."

The jury's recommend

ation for Noosa Council to agree in principle about taking over management of the moorings, anchorage, commercial uses and jetty leases has been tabled before the council, along with 12 further recommend

ations.

The council's managing role was not supported by six of the jurors but was endorsed by 18.

The juror said there were supposedly 127 moorings on the river and yet the Coast Guard Noosa commodore told the jury he could only find 22 being used.

"Who is using all the others? What is going on?" the juror asked.

"I asked about live on-boards, how many were on moorings, how many were on anchorage?"

"I wanted to get to the nitty gritty and we never did quite get to that.

"I think, in the end, it was a battle to get the majority of the jury to agree that council assume control."

She was concerned some of the jury were not aware how serious the situation was on the river, which she described as chaotic.

"It's not working at the moment, so if council's happy to take it on, I think it's well worth it," she said of the present State Government river management set-up.

"A lot of the jury were very concerned about where the money was coming from."

The council's planning and environment manager, Kerri Coyle, said the state agencies were simply not able to provide details to the jury.

Ms Coyle said the agencies did not have statistics on how many people were dumping their waste in the river or were using the river's waste facilities.

She said they did not monitor "some of these issues very closely".