

# Making a living out of river is by a code

By PETER GARDINER

MOST commercial Noosa River boating operators are signed up to a code of conduct aimed at preserving the health of the river and the profitability of their businesses.

Noosa Commercial Boatmen's Association president Paul Grossman spoke to the Noosa News of this local symbiosis this week prior to addressing the community jury, which on Wednesday night met to consider the river management issues.

"I'm just going to be one of their sources, or resources if you like, to help them arrive at opinions," Mr Grossman said.

"We all see ourselves as small businesses.

"We've got the same pressures from competitors targeting the local residents with tourism as the product.

"We're interested from the business perspective what outcomes they are going to consider as to how they manage the river," he said.

He said the idea of the jury briefing was to "give a bit of history of where we come from and safety issues along the river that they might not be aware of".

"Most of the commercial operators have signed up to a code of conduct as to how we are prepared to run our businesses with the idea of looking after the river."

He said this includes when boats are taken out of the water onto the slipway and what sort of chemicals



RIVER ISSUES: Paul Grossman will help brief the community jury on boating issues as well as general concerns.

PHOTO: GEOFF POTTER

are used for cleaning and maintenance.

Among the less obvious issues he raised with the News was the danger posed by "kids jumping off the bridges".

"It is becoming a major safety issue," he said.

And he said he was keen to discuss river transport links.

He said "council policy is

not to have any more commercial jetties but the access to Noosa Heads becomes quite congested because there is only one jetty".

"Navigation on the Noosa River after sunset is extremely difficult because the sandbars keep changing and there are no illuminated channel markers. Another problem

is the river mouth and the maintenance of the depth of the river mouth.

"Everyone has got a different opinion on that.

"All those sandbags that have been put up near the river mouth - is that why Munna Point caravan park is having all those erosion problems?"

"I don't know the answer to that."

He said there had been a lot of exceptional work done on the Noosa River Plan over the years - and that was a credit to the stakeholders like the Noosa Council.

He said in the past the river had the Community and Industry Advisory Committee which fed information to the various state departments.