

First Your Say submission on river management highlights speeds and boat wash

Speed a key issue for river

ONE of the first submissions to the Noosa Your Say on river management highlighted vessel speeds and boat wash, among a range of concerns and the most voiced complaints of mariners using the river.

Submitter Jeff Berry, has given the new community jury, that has been convened to help better manage the Noosa River, plenty to consider.

He said these either oblivious or uncaring speedsters represented a danger to people and damage to nearby vessels, infrastructure and foreshore.

This is an issue which has long been recognised by the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association, which has over the years conducted mangrove plantings as part of

erosion-stabilising works.

"The posted limit is 20 knots but the unposted limit of 6 knots applies for a large proportion of the lower reaches," Mr Berry said.

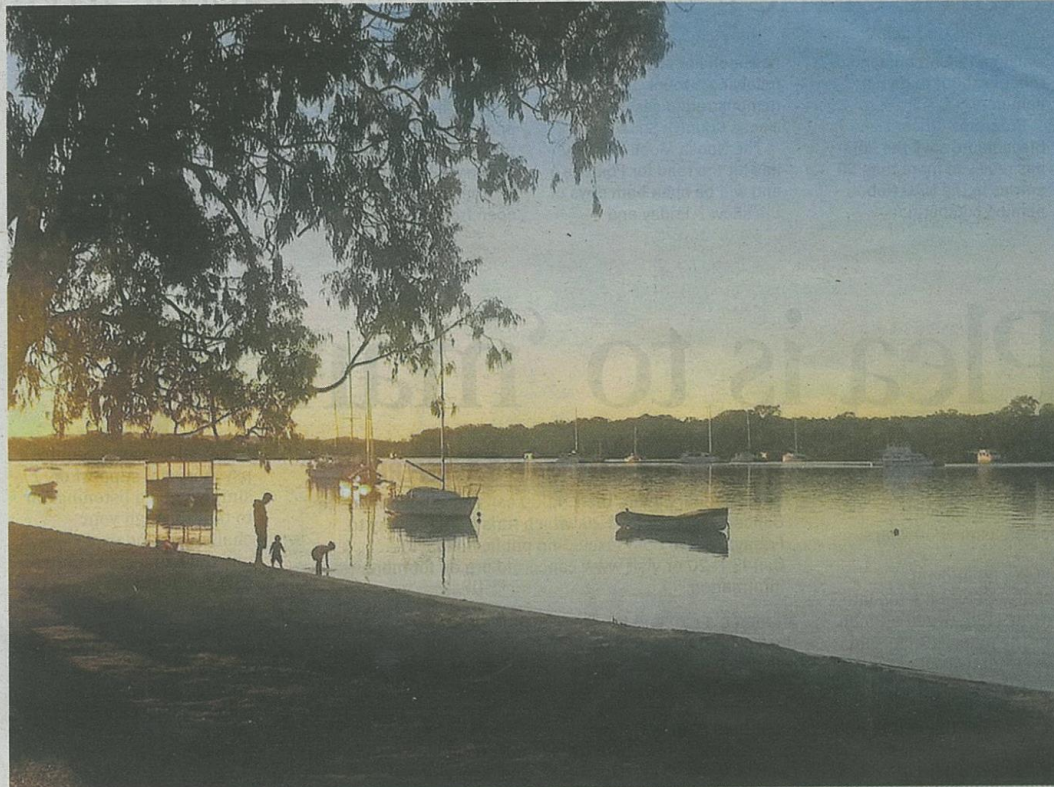
However, he is "totally opposed" to any proposal for Noosa Council to manage or police the Noosa River waterways.

"This is a state issue and fragmenting jurisdiction can create more confusion, bureaucracy and legal issues," he said.

"We are in danger of creating a precedent for all shires on the Queensland seaboard all with differing rules – clearly unworkable.

"Council's efforts to sort out the river's problems, however, has merit in many aspects."

Mr Berry is arguing for compassion with dealing with people who live onboard vessels.



BEAUTIFUL ASSET: Reader Pamela McInnarney captured a moment of family time at sunset on the Noosa River.

PHOTO: PAMELA MCINNARNEY

"The few river folk, like the thousands of other non ratepayers ashore, are still members of the public and welcome to use all public facilities as such.

"Remember living aboard a boat does not preclude a person from owning

rateable property.

"As no more long-term permits are to be issued, long-term live aboards will diminish and finally not exist through natural attrition," he said.

Mr Berry said any move to speed up this existing

process would create the "new homeless", much the same way as land resumptions do.

"Remember the river is their rightful legal home now and for many years past.

"Let he who is willing to

fairly compensate them throw the first stone," he said.

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