



Houseboats on the Noosa River are not all eyesores.

PHOTO: GEOFF POTTER

Noosa's hulks not the worst

By PETER GARDINER

A RELATIVE Noosa newcomer from Sunrise Beach feels strongly enough about the Noosa River to be among the first submitters to the Noosa Council river management public online comment.

In David Ramsden's

opinion the situation of hulking eyesores and river clutter is not as bad as made out by the media.

"I am very concerned that some of the proposed management systems outlined in the Noosa River information pack are an over reaction to an exaggerated media focus on



BEAT UP: One resident believes the situation of 'rotting hulks' on Noosa River is not as bad as portrayed by the media.

PHOTO: JOHN MCCUTCHEON

'rotting hulks' in the river," he said.

"The long-term cost to ratepayers to implement and maintain some of these proposed management systems could be even greater than the costings included in the information pack and much more than any revenue collected.

"Noosa is a great place to live plus access affordable recreational boating – not expensive marina-based facilities.

"I expect there are other people like me."

He said on arrival in

Noosa, he aimed to do the "right thing" before mooring in the Noosa River and contacted a number of organisations and individuals for advice.

"Eventually I ended up with the Brisbane office responsible for moorings.

"I was informed that there were no unallocated moorings in the Noosa River, but I see plenty without vessels on them, and there's about a five-year waiting list plus a booking fee to join the waiting list.

"So I went for a look around and could see that

there was plenty of safe space to anchor my 7m sailing boat in the river, amongst similar vessels, without causing any problems for anyone."

Mr Ramsden does not live aboard but enjoys "frequent access and freedom from all but essential maritime and environmental regulations".

"As a ratepayer, I do not support paying for anchoring in the river.

"Overall, the anchoring and mooring situation in the river does not appear too bad or overcrowded to

me, but there does not appear to be any real time data/facts on the current situation.

"At present there are not many 'rotting hulks' in the river but there are a number of craft that do not appear to be maintained or used."

He said a survey report of the current situation should be the first step before any decision on possible actions or management is made.

"I expect that this would reveal that the situation is not as bad as represented by the media."