

SUBMISSION REGARDING FUTURE POLICIES FOR WATER ACCESS ONLY
PROPERTY OWNERS

MY NAME IS SUE LOCKYER AND TOGETHER WITH MY PARTNER, PAUL HOLLAND, WE HAVE A BLOCK OF LAND AT (address deleted) WHICH IS A WATER ACCESS ONLY LOCATION. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING A 2 BEDROOM HOME ON THIS BLOCK AND CURRENTLY I LIVE IN A ONE ROOM CABIN ON THE BLOCK. WE CHOSE THIS LOCATION BECAUSE WHEN WE BOUGHT THE LAND 3 YEARS AGO IT WAS STILL REASONABLY AFFORDABLE AS WE COULD NOT AFFORD ANY OTHER WATERFRONT LOCATIONS. WE ARE BY NO MEANS WEALTHY PEOPLE, AND WE BOTH WORK FULL TIME IN ORDER TO SAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUILD OUR HOME. WHEN WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF BUYING THE LAND WE DISCOVERED THAT WE COULD NOT HAVE ANY GUARANTEES REGARDING THE ISSUE OF A LICENSE FOR THE USE OF THE SHARE JETTY WHICH IS ON OUR LAND.

OUR SOLICITOR ADVISED US NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PURCHASE AS HE FELT IT WAS RIDICULOUS TO HAVE ACCESS TO OUR PROPERTY UNDER SUCH A CLOUD OF UNCERTAINTY WHEN IT WAS OUR ONLY MEANS OF GAINING ACCESS TO THAT PROPERTY. HOWEVER, AS WE DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY THE LAND WE HAD TO GAMBLE THAT THE LICENSE WOULD BE ISSUED AND WE SPENT MANY ANXIOUS DAYS WAITING FOR THE NECESSARY PAPER WORK TO BE COMPLETED, WHICH IT WAS, SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER PURCHASE.

DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, WE THEN DISCOVERED THAT NOT ONLY DID WE HAVE TO PAY A YEARLY RENTAL FEE BUT ALSO AN EXTRA \$400 PER YEAR FOR A WET BERTHING AREA. IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO DISCOVER WHAT A WET BERTHING AREA ACTUALLY WAS WE WERE NEVER GIVEN A SATISFACTORY ANSWER NOR DID THERE APPEAR TO BE ANY FORMAL POLICY THAT WE COULD REFER TO REGARDING THIS MATTER.

IT SEEMS TOTALLY UNFAIR THAT WE HAVE TO PAY FOR A LICENSE, AND A BERTHING AREA, AT ALL, SINCE WE HAVE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN OUR JETTY AT OUR OWN COST WHICH IS SUBSTANTIAL. AS FOR HAVING TO SEEK THE MINISTERS APPROVAL FOR ANY REPAIR WORK OR UPGRADING OF OUR JETTY, IT SEEMS THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ALL THE RIGHTS, WHILST WE THE OWNERS, HAVE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY AND FINANCIAL BURDENS.

IN THE CITY, ALL RESIDENTS CAN PARK THEIR CARS IN THEIR GARAGES OR CARPORTS FREE OF CHARGE AND HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THEIR PROPERTIES AT ANY TIME, WHICH OF COURSE THEY SHOULD. SO WHY DON'T WE HAVE FREE ACCESS TO OUR PROPERTIES OR FREE AREAS TO PARK OUR BOATS, WHEN OUR BOATS ARE OUR ONLY MEANS OF TRANSPORT AND OUR JETTIES ARE OUR ONLY ACCESS TO OUR PROPERTIES?

PLEASE DON'T BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE ALL MILLIONAIRES LIVING IN LUXURY HOUSES WITH 40FT. CRUISERS TIED UP AT OUR JETTIES. IN OUR CASE WE ARE AN AVERAGE COUPLE EARNING AN AVERAGE WAGE WITH A SECOND HAND HALF CABIN FIBERGLASS BOAT BUILT NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO, AS OUR ONLY MEANS OF TRANSPORT

WE ARE YOUR AVERAGE MIDDLE AGE COUPLE SEEKING A QUIET LIFE IN A BEAUTIFUL AREA. WE LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY AND WE ARE ENTITLED TO CHOSE WHERE WE LIVE AND SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE ALL OTHER AUSTRALIANS WHO DO LIKEWISE. JUST BECAUSE WE CHOSE TO LIVE IN A WATER ACCESS ONLY AREA DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE ELITIST. ON THE CONTRARY, ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WE LIVE HERE IS BECAUSE IT IS STILL AFFORDABLE, UNLIKE MANY OTHER PARTS OF COASTAL NSW.

WE THEREFORE SUBMIT TO YOU THE FOLLOWING REFORMS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

1. THE RIGHT TO ACCESS OUR PROPERTIES ACROSS CROWN LAND WITH NO FINANCIAL PENALTY.
2. THE RIGHT TO HAVE SAFE ACCESS TO OUR HOMES AND PROPERTIES VIA JETTIES AND THE RIGHT TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN THEM WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM GOVT. DEPARTMENTS..
3. THE ABOLISHING OF ALL RENTAL FEES AND WET BERTHING FEES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EITHER A 99 YEAR LEASE SYSTEM THAT TRANSFERS TO HEIRS OR PURCHASERS OR PERHAPS CONVERSION TO FREEHOLD TITLE
4. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE WATERWAYS AUTHORITY AND LOCAL COUNCILS AND NOT THE DEPT OF LANDS.
5. FINALLY WE REQUIRE A CLEAR AND CONCISE POLICY HANDBOOK TO WHICH WE CAN REFER SHOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY TENURE GIVEN OVER CROWN LAND (THE RIVER).

THANK YOU, IN ANTICIPATION, OF YOUR CAREFULL CONSIDERATION.

SUE LOCKYER AND PAUL HOLLAND