



Newport Residents Association Inc.

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General Manager
Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE 1660

Pittwater Waterway Review

Dear Sir,

We understand that submissions regarding this review were due last month but hope you will accept this late submission.

The Newport Residents' Association compliments the previous Pittwater Council and now the Northern Beaches Council for undertaking such a review

Two of our members, Mr Greg Ross and Mr Glen Moore, have lodged personal submissions and the Newport Residents Association (NRA) agrees with the points made in those submissions. In particular we support the summary points contained in Mr Moore's submission, especially in regard to the strengthening of the current LEP as follows;

The current Pittwater LEP 2014 should be further strengthen to ensure Marinas are required:

- 1. To provide adequate parking.*
- 2. Improve public access to the foreshore.*
- 3. Have available on each marina world-class fire fighting equipment and procedures in place in case of a fire as seen near the Princes Street Marina a few years back.*
- 4. Pay an annual environmental levy (\$/lm) to pay for the ongoing environmental sustainability of Pittwater.*
- 5. Develop and implement strategies to minimise glare and visual pollution from the mass of white boats. Maybe a certain percentage say 30% must be other colours than bright white.*
- 6. Upgrade their slipway and maintenance facilities to eliminate areas where toxic chemicals from antifoul procedure can be washed or blown into Pittwater.*
- 7. Rectify pollution that they have generated due to past operations.*
- 8. Mandate diesel injector flushing system fitted and electronically integrated with the ignition system of the startup engines.*

One of the major concerns of the NRA is the potential to increase Marinas right across Pittwater based on the recent Land & Environment Court case between the council and the

Royal Motor Yacht Club. If a precedent gets accepted from this case then we could have almost uncontrolled expansion into existing swing mooring areas.

We also make the following points;

The Southern end of the Pittwater Water way is now in turmoil with an overload of Marinas, moored boats, boats on the street and limited parking facilities. This area can no longer accommodate any more boating facilities nor will it be able to in the next 10 to 15 years for the following reasons:

1. Parking is at a premium. Only Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club and Pittwater Aquatic Club have adequate parking for its' members. Any increase in size of marinas in this area must include multilevel parking (such as in place at Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club) as part of their DA to expand.
2. Offsite parking for general boating is not a solution. These users of Pittwater usually have canoes, boards, jet skis that cannot be carried on a bus or other modes of transport. They can only come by car direct to the launch site.
3. All launching sites on Pittwater for watercraft are now overloaded and the question is "can the council provide other areas to launch these craft?" The answer to this is probably NO.
4. We do however agree to offsite parking for larger yachts that could be stored on land say at Terry Hills and brought to the water by a transport company on notice from the owner. The owner would then have to park at the storage site and take a commuter bus. But where will these larger boats be launched? Bayview ramp perhaps or the ramp at the Royal Motor Yacht Club.
5. Regarding swing moorings- RMS has capped the mooring numbers on Pittwater to 3641 moorings. Of these moorings 969 moorings are commercial moorings provided to clubs by the RMS. This number far exceeds the legislation and we ask council to check what percentage of moorings are allowed to be allocated as commercial moorings and rectify the situation. Council should be reminded that if the Royal Motor Yacht Club wins the current case to expand their marina in the Land & Environment Court based on their commercial moorings giving them existing use rights then the other commercial mooring owners may use the same precedent.
6. We request that the Northern Beaches Council writes to the local State Member Rob Stokes requesting an enquiry into the Maritime section of the RMS on Pittwater for the following reasons:
 1. Maritime only has two part time Boating Officers.
 2. They only have one boat to patrol the whole of Pittwater.
 3. More often than not the patrol boat is not out on the weekend. Rules not enforced on those days.
 4. The boating officer alone makes decisions on safety aspects of boating. The Newport Arms proposed Marina shows exactly this. The boating Officer stated that all was safe but due to concerns of the boating public the marina application was withdrawn.
7. Moorings in most areas have not been aligned for many years. This causes boats to protrude into navigation channels.
8. So called "mooring minders" are not enforced. Many derelict boats are on moorings – they often break away in storms. The Boat Owners' Association estimates that 30% of moored boats are derelict and just mooring minders. The RMS needs to have a system of registration like cars. Owners must present each year –mooring service certificate-proof of public liability insurance-boat is sea worthy-boat has all the required safety gear. None of these then mooring forfeited. This would free up many many moorings.

9. Re Pollution. Our Association believe that existing clubs and marinas have their underwater surrounds (sediments) audited by the EPA and that these facilities be made to remediate any contamination now. Waiting for more contamination to arrive is wrong. Leaf blowers must be banned from blowing leaves etc. into gutters and drains. These all flow to the waterway in heavy rain. Council should fine people who do not pick up the debris and place it in the green bins. After rain, Pittwater is full of leaf debris.
10. Important material left out of the review:
 1. *There was no mention of fire control. The Newport fire report shows that only foam can put out marine fires. The only fire tender on Pittwater (we believe there are only two and manned by volunteers) do not have adequate foam if any foam. The NSW Fire Brigade does not have a boat but should have one on Pittwater equipped with paid crew and foam.*
 2. *Mona Vale Road widening will bring a lot more people to the area. When the Gosford Freeway was built some years ago, many people found it easier to go to the Central Coast. But this will change with the widening of Mona Vale Road.*
 3. *Possible solution-use Akuna Bay in the National park as an example- it works well and has adequate parking. Approach The State Government to set aside areas in the National Park that an ecological marina with boat stack storage and good parking could be built. The road structure is already in place*

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Butler
President