

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

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Noosa residents and a number of organisations have been caring very well for the health of the Noosa River for generations. We have worked long and hard with relevant stakeholders and agencies to pull together the Noosa River Management Plan. Our community has invested an enormous amount of energy and vigorous investigation into this achievement. Yet, for some unfathomable reason, we have not been consulted in the drafting of this proposed bill being presented to Parliament. Noosa's waterways are independent of other waterways in this state, they are not interconnected, they are a stand alone system. They have high environmental value. It's evident through regular surveys that Noosa residents prize the quality of the bush and waterways environments. There are only 2 Everglades in the world - one is in Noosa. We have an extensive and consistent history in protecting our environment - which is why we are a high profile tourism destination. Because of the calibre of local knowledge and years of commitment to the river's health, commonsense says we should have been consulted properly in the early drafting of this bill. There is concern in the community about the duplication of roles, duplication of budgets and potential lack of representation on the management committee if this bill is to succeed. We understand best the balance required between commercial and recreational use, adjacent land use and the waterway's environmental health. We don't know what concerns Brisbane residents have about their river so how can anyone in Brisbane have any understanding of our needs and concerns for the Noosa River? Please arrange for face to face consultation with Noosa stakeholders on this draft bill.