

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

Submission No: 039

Submission By: Adrienne McVerry

Submission for the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

To: The State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee
(SDIWC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

CC: The Office of Sandy Bolton MP (noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Subject: Submission regarding the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026 –
Impact on Lake Cootharaba Residents

To the Committee Secretariat,

I am writing as a resident of Pomona to provide feedback on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026. While I support the establishment of a dedicated authority for our waterways, I have significant concerns regarding the 28-day anchoring limit being proposed for the Noosa River system, including Lake Cootharaba.

I sail an 18 ft yacht regularly on Lake Cootharaba. This is a vital part of my health and community life; I take fellow Boreen Point residents sailing fortnightly and use the yacht to teach my grandchildren outdoor skills, fishing, and environmental stewardship, which is essential for keeping them active and away from their mobile phones.

However, as I am in my late 70s, the physical demand of trailering a yacht, stepping the mast, and launching for every single use is becoming unmanageable. To continue these activities and spend quality time camping on the yacht with my family at the Boreen Point campground, I need the ability to keep my vessel safely anchored on the lake for months at a time, rather than just 28 days a year.

I ask the Committee to consider the following recommendations:

1. **Resident Anchoring Permits:** Establish a permit system for local residents who regularly use and maintain their vessels. I check my yacht personally and have local friends check it daily.
2. **Exemptions for Active Recreational Use:** The 28-day limit is a "one-size-fits-all" rule that does not account for residents who are responsible stewards of the waterway but face physical barriers to constant launching and retrieval.
3. **Support for Senior Sailors:** Ensure the new Authority has a mandate to support the accessibility of sailing for older community members by providing long-term mooring or anchoring options.

The current proposal effectively ends the ability for many senior residents to participate in sailing—a healthy, low-impact activity that connects our community. I urge the Authority to provide a pathway for active, responsible sailors to remain on the water.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Mcverry [REDACTED]

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