

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

Submission No: 046

Submission By: Simon 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 the provision of Safe Refuge

To the Committee Secretariat,

I am writing as a resident the Sunshine Coast area 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 concerns regarding the limitations imposed by anchoring restrictions for Ocean going vessels which will limit the ability to find safe harbour for seafarers.

As a yachtsmen and international sailor it is important that vessels are able to choose safe anchorages that allow for shelter from seasonal weather patterns. In this part of the world this can be generally applicable to the Pacific cyclone season where yachts will move south of the tropic of Capricorn in order to safely shelter for the summer season when cyclones can be active.

While I recognise the requirements for regulation of our waterways to avoid long term anchoring/storage of vessels it is my opinion that provisions should be made to allow ocean going vessels to continue to use Sunshine Coast Waterways for the provision of safe harbour.

The current 28-day anchoring limit for the Noosa River system and 7 day limit for the GoldCoast Waterways means that the options for safe harbour for ocean going vessels moving out of the cyclone belt is limited. This has the potential to impact on seafarers decision to visit SE QLD with resultant impacts on the marine industries that support these vessels.

I ask the Committee to consider the following recommendations:

1. **Exemptions for Ocean Going Vessels:** The 28-day and 7 day anchoring limits are a "one-size-fits-all" rule that does not account for travelling seafarers seeking safe harbour on a seasonal basis.

Yours Sincerely Simon McVerry

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