

# Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

**Submission No:** 058

**Submission By:** [REDACTED]

**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name

---

I live in Caloundra and I have a personal interest in the protection of the Pumicestone Passage. That's why I want to see the SCWA function properly and serve our local community. I've read through the draft, and it's ok, but I fear there are some weaknesses that should be addressed before it becomes law. My concerns are as follows:

- to ensure the balanced stewardship of the SCWA, the Board should include a majority of ex officio positions from reputable stakeholder institutions such as the relevant local governments, and First Nations representatives. University of Sunshine Coast has significant marine systems expertise, and could also provide a marine systems expert as an ex officio member of the Board. Marine industry groups should also be represented, and this also could be done through ex officio.
- to ensure its local ownership and longevity, and to prevent the SCWA being perceived as an unbalanced and politically partisan entity, the degree of control and direction of the SCWA by the Minister should be tightened and reduced.
- the CEO should be appointed by the Board, in accordance with best practice governance principles.
- the jurisdiction of the SCWA in respect of the other relevant government agencies should be clarified, so as to prevent accountability gaps arising.
- the protection of the environment should be expressly prioritised as a core responsibility of the SCWA. That is, the SCWA should not be allowed to do anything or embark on a course of action that leads to degradation of the fragile Pumicestone Passage (and the other waterways that it will oversight).