

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

Submission No: 068

Submission By: Noosa Parks Association

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NOOSA PARKS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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20 March 2026

RE: SUBMISSION ON SUNSHINE COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY BILL 2026

The Noosa Parks Association thanks the Queensland Government for the opportunity to respond to the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026.

The Noosa Parks Association (NPA) is Queensland's oldest and largest local community-based conservation organisation. It was established in 1962 when less than 1% of the geographic area of Noosa Shire was protected as national park. Over the past 60-plus years, NPA has successfully and progressively advocated for over 40% of Noosa Shire being protected as national park, conservation park, nature refuge, and dedicated fish habitat area.

Noosa Parks Association looks forward to working cooperatively with the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority (SCWA). We note that the key function of the SCWA include "developing a management strategy and program for the Noosa River and Lakes system that considers the benefits and impacts for the local community, local environment, and local marine industries, tourism and economy."

With this in mind, Noosa Parks Association will be strongly advocating for a SCWA strategy and program that:

1. Makes the increasingly flood-prone Noosa River and Lakes safer for the communities of Boreen Point, Lake Cootharaba, Lake Cooribah, Noosa North Shore, Tewantin, Noosaville, and Noosa Heads to live beside.
2. Improves the ecological health and biodiversity in the Noosa River and lake system, plus Laguna Bay into which it flows.
3. Increases the fishing sustainability in the Noosa River and lake system, plus Laguna Bay.
4. Proactively manages resident and tourist access to, and impacts on, the Noosa River and lake system, particularly with regards to waterway congestion.

Furthermore, Noosa Parks Association strongly recommends that a reference group be established for each waterway and catchment. These groups at a minimum should include representatives from the appropriate local council, appropriate Indigenous organisation, local environmental stakeholder groups, and local boating/tourism stakeholder groups.

Noosa Parks Association would welcome an opportunity to provide evidence at the planned public hearing on April 1st.

For further information, please contact Noosa Parks Association's Project Officer for the Noosa River, Michael Gloster, or myself.

Best wishes
Tony Wellington
President of Noosa Parks Association