

Inquiry into the economic and regulatory frameworks for Queensland island resorts

Submission No: 45
Submitted by: Stephen Gummer
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I have lived in Australia since 2002. Most everywhere i went i was welcomed. This was also the case when i moved to Mackay where i joined VMR and Mackay and surrounds turtle watch. I am an avid boatie and fisherman and found the Mackay was a gateway to some of the most beautiful islands. As it happened i visited basil bay where i met some of the local community. A very diverse range of charaters from all over who had made Keswick island their home. Angela an soon become fast friends with them, visiting and staying with them often. The island is a paradise. There is an underlying negative element however. It started with attempting to launch a residents inflatable boat down what i considered a dodgy and unsafe boat ramp. Now there is a better one a few 100 meter up but that was closed to residents at the time. The ramp was slippery narrow and unsafe. The golf buggy has a hard time maintain good traction. As we got to know the residence more they opened up about some of the other difficulties they were having on the island and the interactions they were having with the islands management. I experenced this first hand one day. I offered to bring one of the residents back to the island from Mackay with some groceries as i was going to saty for the weekend on the boat. The plan was to anchor in the bay adjacent to the dodgy boat ramp and do a transfer with the inflatable from the island. As normal we were also invited up for a coffee and lunch. This is where thins turned a bit nasty. Upon arriving on the island in the inflatable befor even stwppin onto dry land i was verbally accosted by the manager. Saying i was not allowed to step foot on the island. The locals put up a good defence and said i was invited by them and argument ensued. My friend an i eventually assisted loading the inflatable onto nit trailer and helped push the tow vehicle up the beach. Doing our best to ignore the ongoing argument between island management and the local residence. Anyway we saftey made it to out mates place at the top of the hill. Helped un pack the groceries and commenced to chill out. Thats what you do there. Its relaxing looking out over the islands. Not to long adfer that a loud ramp on the door was heard. Managwment had sent security guards to the residence to have us removed. Our mate told the sexurity guards to get lost and told them to leave. Which the eventually did. We hade a relaxing time fishing and diving over the next two days with our mates on the island. No more hassles from island management or so it seemed. Sunday we said farwell, and we were transfered back to my boat and made my way back into Mackay all safe and sound. Modnay came arou d an i got a call from the Mackay police, asking if i could.come in an have a chat regarding a tresspass complaint against me and my friend who went to Keswick. Over the weekend. I complied and laid my story out over about two hours at The Mackay branch. They were very nice and at the end of the enquiry they said rhey would deal with the situation. I wasnt bothered by management on the island again. But it was understandably distressing. During my time here i have noted large errioso around the dodgy jetty and watched as muddy water has pored of thw dodgy constuction around that area. Diving that are afterwards and a long time sinve the coral.was covered in mud. One of the boys on the island took some under water footage of it. Its not been well done. Anyway thats a bit of my direct involvement of the island to date.

Submitter Recommendations:

Get rid of or fix the dodgy unsafe ramp and supporting road and ramp. The run off doesnt appear to be good for the reef in the area and the ramp a few 100 meters up is much better tho not deep enough. Jetty should be put in for easier transfers. No need for the constant risk of boat to boat transfers. Perfectly good runway as far as i can tell should be opened back up for the public and resident use. The island lease should be cancelled and given back to the state.