

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee inquiry into youth justice reform in Queensland

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Submission from Victim

1. I have resided in a river front property for 30 yrs. The last 10yrs, I and other residents have witnessed seriously dangerous behavior, abuse and threats of youth in tinnies aka River Rats. These youths of ages 8 – 17yo follow UTube ‘Mad Hueys’ and the word spreads when filming of their activities.

*We contacted Noosa council but it’s not their jurisdiction. Yet they repaired erosion damage. The repetitive gouging from tinnies’ spinouts assisted in the falling of embankment trees. My rates should not have paid for this inconvenience.

*Contacted Noosa Water Police but they don’t have a boat? Yet an Officer could stand on the bridge and witness their speed and behavior.

*Our next hope was Coast Guard (no authority) then Maritime. The new local Noosa Maritime officer managed to clean up the river but was then moved on. Noosa have had ‘moved on’ many Maritime staff. Now our only Mooloolaba Maritime officer was the nearest but they’ve got their own local issues. We question why such a turnover?

Not to mention not ONE department that supervises the river work on weekends, early mornings or late nights when the youth in tinnies are most likely circulating.

They’ve stolen boats, motors, boat paraphernalia, broken jetty foundations and encouraged erosion due to their washback. I personally have lost 5 jetty stools (approx. \$410).

We contacted our local member who too had not much to offer. Damien Hayes from Mooloolaba Maritime has managed to remove the behavior but it returns as it's a generational and parental issue from the set go. This matter just keeps rolling on.

Out of desperation I contacted our Prime Minister. I was referred to Noosa Police and Mooloolaba Maritime. This we had already done with no luck?

Been there done all that. Total frustration, still ongoing.

2. From experience, it appears we have so-called departments with no authority, just a facade. Too many hands in the bowl, yet none deliver. When you speak with the staff their frustration is enormous. I heard regularly the same response to these issues:

'Our boats are too shallow for that area'
So how do the river rats (youth in tinnies) do it?

'We haven't got a boat' Yet they're the WATER police so stand on the riverbank/bridge?

'We don't work weekends' So hire weekend staff.

Too many differing depts. for too many differing issues.

One local contact, one local action is the answer.

The Govt. have appeared to have all these secular departments working in flue's. No-one communicates to one another. No-one knows 'who' is in charge or can remedy the problem. Those put in 'charge' actually have no authority. No-one can do their job anymore due to legislation.

All faceless issues.

No-one cares. Hence, our serious youth problem – apart from parental neglect these out of control youth are the reflection of an authority's inability to act. Your staff are frustrated, over worked and under paid.

3. The delay of action after initial report is hideous. Each problem area needs a direct local contact of authority. Too much paperwork, not enough action Of all the reports made by residents, no-one is advised of action taken, what offenders are caught. For there to be a continual repeat of offence quite obviously, they're laughing at the Law.
4. Never had any report or matter go to court yet I personally have advised I would testify.
5. Never had to access victim's report.
6. Never reported crime to Media. The media are assisting their egos in being 'on screen.' These kids would only enjoy their stardom.
7. One issue bothers me and that's these youth's parents. They certainly don't come from poverty when they reside in Noosa Waters, have access to motorised watercraft. The parents need to be held accountable for 1) Allowing them use of their boat. 2) For no present parental supervision.
 - When a person reoffends then their 'vehicle/toy needs to be confiscated/removed or boat registration denied. Parents or offender fined. Offending youth made to clean up river issues – rubbish, campsites, sweep gutters, clean storm water drains etc.
 - Remove their telecommunication devices. Give authority the right to hold for a time period.

- Place CCTV on bridges/private jetties. Both Noosa Police and Maritime have agreed this would ease the ability to produce evidence. Noosa Council refuse to agree and won't allow installation. It's my jetty, it's my authority, not Councils.
- Areas as pristine as Weyba Creek require protection. Enacting preservation areas on our estuaries where fish breeding, newly generated oyster beds and rare birdlife habitat need to be protected from motorised craft, jetskis, river rats hooning. Other non-engine river users who respect and appreciate the waterways – SUP's, canoeists, swimmers, anglers etc. have a right to go about their respectful water activity enjoyment without having to protect, depart or defend their activity.