



The Boat Owners Association of NSW Inc

Consumer Action in Boating

26 July 2021

Councillor Kay Fraser
Mayor
Lake Macquarie City Council
Box 1906
Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310
by email: council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

cc Lake Macquarie City Councilors
Mr. David Berryman, President, Belmont 16 Foot Sailing Club
Mr. Geoff Edman, Commodore, Lake Macquarie Yacht Club
Mr. Graham Parr, Commodore, Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto

Lake Macquarie Lake Activation Strategy

Dear Mayor Fraser

The Boat Owners Association of NSW has had the opportunity to speak with you in the recent past, personally and through submissions to the Council, about the support that the Council has given in the provision of boating infrastructure and to recreational boating in general over recent years. We have expressed concern about the recent apparent decline in the value that the Council now seems to place on boating.

This has been displayed in the draft Lake Activation Strategy that has been on public exhibition for the past three weeks. There will be differences of opinion within a community that has a broad spectrum of interests. Nevertheless, boating in its various forms is a pastime pursued by a substantial part of the community and warrants full consideration if not support. It is no small contributor to the local economy.

Recreational boating needs infrastructure for its existence, not just jetties and boat ramps, but also the services provided by community clubs, large and small and depends on services and support provided by the business economy.

The three major boating clubs on the Lake, the Belmont 16 Foot Sailing Club, the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club and the Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto are important providers of services to the boating community and to the community in general. They might operate as licensed club businesses but they do so to support boating and their members, an objective within the Constitution of each of the clubs.

The Council might regard them as private business, but they are not. They operated for and on behalf of their broad community memberships and for the community good.

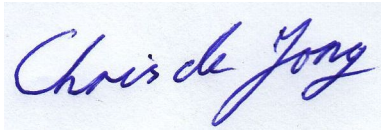
The three-week period allowed for public review of the Lake Activation Strategy was far too short for representative organisations, let alone the community, to take into account the possibilities implied in such a broad-based, important and voluminous document. Now that the council elections have been deferred until December the perceived need to conclude the Strategy quickly has receded. The BOA submits, therefore, that the additional time available should be used to:

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- extend the period for public comment by at least 6 weeks;
- call a meeting of the principal boating clubs and other organisations supporting and representing boating to canvass the opportunities and difficulties presented by the draft strategy and by boating on Lake Macquarie;
- use the time to embrace other community organisations many of which must harbour uncertainties about how the draft strategy, if implemented, might affect them and their communities.

Lake Macquarie is too important to boating, the local community, the region and New South Wales to rush an important strategy for its future use and protection.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris de Jong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind the text.

Chris DeJong
President
Boat Owners Association of NSW