

From: Tweed Estuary General Commercial Fishers

Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah 2484

Dear Sir / Madam

This letter has been written to make a submission on Tweed Shire Council's proposed Chinderah Pontoon. We have been told by Patrick Dwyer from Fisheries that Council would accept a late submission as none of us saw the ad for the proposal as it has been the mullet season, a very busy time for fisherman.

The reason we need to make our objection to this proposal known is because the proposal is right in the middle of one of our hauling grounds and will impact on our fishing operations. We see that the report prepared by Darryl Anderson Consulting for the pontoon says that commercial fishers "have advised that the proposal would not impact on their operations." This is not true. It would be interesting to know who was consulted because we, the river fisherman have not been asked.

This site has been a regularly used commercial haul shot and the importance of this shot and ones around Chinderah Island were considered at the court case for the Chinderah Marina. Both the Chinderah Marine proposal and this present proposal would make it impossible to work a haul shot in front of the Chinderah pub.




At the court case the developer of the marina argued that the proposal would not have a significant impact on commercial fishing. After hearing our evidence the judge found that the area is:

"a known haul shot fishing area. While the financial impacts on the 20 or so commercial fishers in the river cannot be quantified, I accept that their exclusion from other parts of the river makes retention of productive fishing grounds important to their continued capacity to make their living fishing the river. I accept that there will be real adverse impacts on those commercial operators"

As you are aware, the developer lost the case. I don't think its unreasonable for the commercial fisherman themselves to have a say in whether or not the loss of a haul shot will be a big or small impact on our operations. The aerial photo attached to this letter has a drawing of the haul area we use.

While we appreciate that a pontoon would be enjoyed by a lot of people coming to Chinderah we really need to raise our objection considering over the years commercial fisherman have been excluded from more and more areas in the Tweed. With the creation of Recreational Fishing Havens we lost a lot of good areas downstream of Rocky Point. With more and more pontoon and jetty development we lose areas like the shot upstream of Chinderah where Joe Hctor's houseboats are. The present dredging around Chinderah Island is also making that area impossible to work. More and more as fisherman we're being forced to work in areas that aren't the best shots, and sometimes in areas where we've previously given up for pontoons and other private structure such as along the Condong reach.

Thank you for considering our submission

DAVID SMITH	
TONY BOBELDYK	
GRAEME TULLY	Gh Tully
MARIA BOBELDYK	Maria Bobeldyk
RYAN TULLY	
BENJAMIN MARKWELL	Benjamin Markwell

chinderah Search



Area used as fishing ground by commercial fishermen approx 100 metres from to point (blue lined area)

Alternative position for consideration

Additional area used by Commercial fishermen

