

### Historic Commercial Uses of the Tweed River.

Other development applications previously assessed for commercial operations on the Tweed River that may have relevance to the current proposal include the following. Most of the applications were lodged for continuation of businesses following compliance action and as a result of the Council resolution of 6/12/2000 that sought development applications within 40 days from all commercial boating operators that did not have a current consent.

- **K98/0496:** bare foot ski race meeting on the tweed river, Tumbulgum – approved 2/12/98 (one-off event)
- **K99/0301:** power boat race meeting on tweed river at fingal – approved 5/7/99 (one-off event)
- **0065/2001PTV:** water skiing school – withdrawn 21/11/2001
- **1030/2001DA:** ferry/water taxi service between Jack Evans Boatharbour and Wavebreak Beach – approved 6/2/2002

One amendment 1030/2001DA.01 for additional drop-off / pick up at Fingal Boat Hire location.

- **1039/2001DA:** Commercial Boating Operations - approved 7/6/2002

For continued operation of 'Endeavour Tours' – two tour boats 'Captain Bill's Explorer' and 'Golden Swan' (17m and 20m with a maximum of 100 persons each) cruising the Tweed River to Tumbulgum on a daily basis from the Wharf Street marina and lodged as a result of a Council resolution that sought to legalise the shire's commercial boating operations.

- **1039/2001DA.01:** refused 6/12/2002

A modification application requesting recalculation of Condition 3(i)a. relating to the payment of contributions pursuant to the provision of the Tweed Road Contribution Plan. The original rate for TRCP contributions remained and the modification application refused.

- **1039/2001DA.02:** approved 21/08/2009: trial period of 12 months

A modification application to include a recreational infra-red shooting activity for groups of up to five patrons from three specific sites within the Tweed River in conjunction with the existing approved tourist facility. The vessel is anchored throughout the activity and the engine is turned off.

The activity involves propelling a sequentially numbered plastic disc (target) a maximum of 20m over open water from the boat whilst patrons aim to hit the target with an infra-red light projected through an infra-red gun. Hit or miss of the target is recorded by a scoring machine and a staff member waiting in the water collects the target and returns it to the boat.

No access was granted to islands forming part of the Tweed Estuary Nature Reserve. Targets were to be fluorescent coloured and floatable. Hours of operation were restricted to two hours following sunrise and two hours prior to sunset (full daylight hours). Adequate signage was to be displayed during the activity visible from a distance of 100m.

There is no noise from the infra-red gun. The electronic scoring machine makes two noises: a 'ding' when the disc is hit and a 'splash' when missed. The maximum volume (adjustable) is below an average human's speaking level. The activity was to take place every few months for a maximum of three hours and marketed to corporate and conference groups.

Sites for the activity to take place were identified in consultation with Council officers: a site opposite Dry Dock Road on the western side of the Pacific Highway and two sites opposite Sunset Boulevard near Davey's Island.

These sites are within open stretches of water in areas of the river without a suitable 'shore' in order to avoid impact upon sea grasses and natural habitat. Infra-red camera activity was not considered to impact upon microbat or flying fox feeding behaviour.

A recent discussion with Endeavour Cruises has indicated that the activity is undertaken sporadically (last was 6 months ago) but that intensification may occur next year.

- **0071/2002DA:** use of river and foreshore at tumbulgum for barefoot water skiing competition over the weekend of saturday 23 february 2002 and sunday 24 february 2002 – withdrawn 30/1/2002
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- **0130/2002DA:** commercial boating operation – approved 3/6/2002  
Lodged for the continuation of the “Boyd’s Bay Houseboat Holidays” Business – five vessels from the existing jetty adjacent Dry Dock for private hire on the Tweed River. 0130/2002DA.01 reduced the boats to 3.
  - **0193/2002DA:** the establishment of a commercial boating operation - "Downunder" - used for ocean fishing and cruising tours – approved 30/5/2002  
Lodged for the continuation of the “Down Under Fishing Tours” Business and involves ocean charters via the Tweed River.
  - **0194/2002DA:** the establishment of a commercial boating operation - "sea master fishing charters" - offshore charter boat - "odin" – approved 3/6/2002  
Lodged for the continuation of the “Sea Master Fishing Tours” Business and involves ocean charters via the Tweed River.
  - **0196/2002DA:** the establishment of a commercial boating operation for three houseboats under the management of Berger Houseboat Holidays – approved 31/5/2002  
Operation from an existing jetty adjacent to Dry Dock Road for private hire of three houseboats utilising the Tweed River. Lodged as compliance matter. 0196/2002DA.02 lodged to increase number of houseboats to 10.
  - **0332/2002DA:** Commercial Boating Operation (buddyline / aqua sports) - approved 27/9/2002  
Commercial cruise / dive operations from Kennedy Drive Boat ramp via Tweed Bar to Cook Island with utilisation of two trailable vessels accommodating a maximum of 10 persons and two crew per vessel. Lodged as a result of a Council resolution that sought to legalise the shire’s commercial boating operations.
  - **0348/2002DA:** commercial boating operation - cruises from the Coolangatta & Tweed Heads Golf Club – approved 30/5/2002  
Original approval for off shore cruises and whale watching from the jetty at the Golf Club. Refer to DA08/0296.
  - **DA02/0383:** tourist facility (boat hire) – approved 21/2/2003  
Boating facility south of the village of Tumbulgum associated with developed land – two pontoons for two houseboats and two barbecue boats (for hire) with amenities block. Subsequent lodgement of DA02/0383.06 for staging of the development, DA02/0383.09 for extension of the lease area, DA02/0383.10 for changes to revetments walls, car parking and other minor variations and DA02/0383.12 for removal of two CAA conditions from DWE.
  - **DA02/0404:** commercial boating operation comprising charter fishing operation – approved 11/6/2002  
Application lodged for continuation of Cushy Fishing Charters from Foysters Jetty out to the open sea via the Tweed River (14 passengers and three crew). DA02/0404.01 lodged to reduce capacity to six passengers per day with reduction in TRCP contributions.
  - **DA02/0405:** dive and fishing charter operation – approved 27/12/2002  
Application lodged for continuation of ‘Ocean Diving and Photographics’ business’.
  - **DA02/0407:** cruise boat operations – approved 11/6/2002  
‘Perfectours’ river tours throughout the day for a maximum of 130 persons with vessels permanently moored at Decosti Seafood in the southern boat harbour.
  - **DA02/1065:** undertaking of sailing activities, operation of tinnies & undertaking of water skiing activities – approved 27/9/2002  
In association with Beach House Seaside Resort, sailing (catamaran, 2 x sailboats, 3 x canoes, 3 x windsurfers, surf ski) at Jack Evans Boat Harbour, ski boats (2) and jet skis (2) within vicinity of Tumbulgum Hotel, guest runabouts (3 x 5hp) within vicinity of Kennedy Drive. Lodged as compliance matter.
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- **DA02/1238:** commercial boating operation – approved 28/1/2003  
Commercial offshore fishing charter business with operation from the Public Wharf River Terrace in Southern Boatharbour. Capacity for 20 passenger in offshore waters. Lodged as compliance matter.
  - **DA02/2011:** guided kayak tours – approved 19/2/2003  
Half-day tours for maximum of 10 people at a time Tweed River and foreshore. Low impact and consistent with private use of the waterways.
  - **DA02/1615:** Recreational use Tweed River – approved 27/12/2002  
Three small (4m) hire boats for private operation. Launched from Chinderah Bay, Fingal/Homestead, Dry Dock Road/ Banora Caravan Park and Kennedy Drive boat ramps.
  - **DA03/1142:** tourist run by speedboat up Tweed River – approved 14/10/2003  
From Tweed Heads to Murwillumbah with stopovers in Tumbulgum and passengers (max. 10) to be picked up and set down only from the southern boatharbour jetty once constructed.
  - **DA07/0974:** jet boat rides operating from Foysters Jetty and sales office (shop2) – approved 13/2/2008  
The jet boat was to be moored at an existing approved mooring within the Ivory Coast Marina. Jet boat rides take place out in the Pacific Ocean beyond the Tweed Bar crossing, operated by two crew with the boat accommodating up to 12 passengers. The Tweed River is only to be used as the passage to and from the open water.
  - **DA08/0296:** whale watching and deep sea fishing charter business - Tweed River (Tweed Heads South), unnamed road reserve (extending from Boyle Avenue) – approved 20/6/2008  
Utilising the Coolangatta/Tweed Golf Club jetty, charter boat tours take place on an 'as booked' basis downstream along the Tweed River, through the Tweed River bar and out into open water. The existing jetty was the base for a previously approved smaller whale watching tour boat from 2002 to 2005. Four crew are required and the boat can accommodate up to 46 passengers.
  - **DA08/0931:** boat tours on Tweed River – approved 19/2/2009: trial period of 6 months  
Sightseeing tour by jet boat from Foysters Jetty to Tumbulgum, Tweed Heads South and Murwillumbah. Same applicant as DA07/0974. Seating capacity of two crew and 12 passengers. The possibility of detrimental environmental impact dealt with by way of six month trial. No further application for continuation was received prior to expiry of the trial period.
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