

MEDIA RELEASE

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Issued on behalf of the Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

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Positive talks at Noosa River reference meeting

It was a constructive and positive start to the first official Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting.

Committee members, who met last week, were encouraged by the receptive approach from Maritime Safety Queensland's General Manager Angus Mitchell and Noosa Council's Mayor Clare Stewart.

Member Nick Hluszko said the committee is focussed on achieving improved management outcomes for the Noosa River.

"Our community has long raised concerns about anchoring, mooring, beaching and liveaboard vessel abuses and the recommendations from the sub-committee reflect the vast majority of public opinion and we feel from a management perspective, are very much achievable quickly," he said.

Maritime Safety Queensland representatives have agreed to explore various options for vessel management based on other intrastate and interstate waterway examples and will report back to the next month's meeting.

Mr Hluszko said the talks were encouraging.

"It's so pleasing to see a total understanding of the issues by Angus Mitchell from MSQ and to receive his positive feedback that the department will now formally review these," he said.

"We see a very well managed river in Maroochydore with virtually none of the problems we face, so it's time to get things back under control in Noosa.

"It's a good start for the journey ahead for the Noosa River Stakeholders Advisory Committee," Mr Hluszko said.

MSQ General Manager and Co-Chair Angus Mitchell said there was a clear focus on working collaboratively to improve river management and co-ordination.

"We are all seeking the same outcomes and MSQ is keen to work with the community to implement appropriate measures that protect the Noosa River," he said.

Council CEO Brett de Chastel said the committee had the opportunity to create a landmark management model.

"This committee is passionate about getting results and the first meeting was a great start," he said.

Work will commence on examining river health and datasets, with particular focus on better use of existing information already gathered by many different organisations

ENDS.