

Dangar Island League

PO Dangar Island, NSW 2083
www.dangarislandleague.net



13 February 2017

Steve Russell
Mayor
Hornsby Shire Council
PO Box 37
Hornsby NSW 1630

Dear Steve

We understand Council is presently considering whether to continue to keep a utility vehicle on Dangar Island. The Dangar Island League considers this long-standing arrangement should be continued. Removing the ute would result in increased costs to Council and to water, sewerage, electricity and other utilities working on the Island. It would be hopelessly inefficient and expensive to have to barge a vehicle every time. It would also have negative results for Island safety and amenity.

One of the ute's primary roles is as a resource when things go unpredictably wrong. Unfortunately such events happen semi-regularly. At the moment, for example, both the Island buggy and our small 'ambulance' are both off-Island for unscheduled repairs and have been for a number of weeks. The ute is the last resort for moving people in any medical emergency or for people with reduced mobility. It would also play an important support role in case of bushfires. For any time critical events it is simply not sensible or practical to barge over a substitute vehicle.

The ute is also available for hire by Dangar residents to help them move personal items around the Island. Similarly for tradesmen who work on the island. This makes life easier; it is also efficient, reduces Island and river traffic with everyone bringing their own vehicle over for often relatively minor transport needs.

In making our case we are aware that it is probably a good time to review the ute operating arrangements. As the Island attracts more permanent residents new arrangements might make bookings and some cost recovery work better. In this regard we suggest it is worth considering moving responsibility for the ute to the Island Vehicle Management Committee, which operates the buggy successfully, and reviewing driver registration and fee arrangements.

Thank you for considering this matter. Representatives of the League are available to discuss this matter further with you or your officers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sophia Walsh'.

Sophia Walsh
President, Dangar Island League Inc
president@dangarislandleague.net

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa O'Keefe'.

Vanessa O'Keefe
Vice President, Dangar Island League Inc
vanessa@vokeefe.com.au