

Dangar Island League

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www.dangarislandleague.net



A letter from the President of the League.

2nd July 2013

The Dangar Island Mooring Co-operative. (DIMC)

For well over a decade, Dangar residents and the League have been discussing and working on ways to provide safe and convenient tinnie mooring facilities for those residents who currently do not have access to the water. The League has had a sub-committee led by Anthony Schinckel working to address this problem for over three years. Good progress has been made in overcoming the financial, environmental and engineering problems in designing an appropriate facility, but work still needs to be done.

The Island is a unique place with special people and a proposed change will often create opposing views. The focus of the League is to create solutions that will meet the needs of the majority of Islanders, are environmentally responsible and reasonable. I am sure that a mooring facility will not please everybody, after all this is Dangar Island.

I am concerned that since the last public League meeting, what should be reasoned debate regarding a proposed mooring facility has become partisan and acrimonious, in some cases accompanied with misinformed commentary. Dangar Island has had sewer wars, buggy wars and the road wars; we do not need a mooring co-op war.

Let me lay out the facts regarding the progress that has been made in striving to provide a tinnie mooring co-op, for those Islanders who have no or limited access to the water:

- Council and Maritime authorities will be improving the public jetty to provide disability access as well as four visitor moorings. Council is driven by legislative requirements and disability access must be provided by 2014.
- There is a need and desire to provide safe and convenient tinnie mooring facilities on the Island for residents who have no or limited access to the water. In particular those residents residing on inland blocks.
- The DIMC subcommittee that is working on an effective solution to provide a tinnie tie up facility is in the final stages of putting together a proposal for the Island. The original aim of this DIMC was to create a facility for up to 40 tinnies (eighteen years ago it was 20). At this stage it appears that a facility of about 30 berths will be more feasible from a financial and construction point of view.
- The favoured location for a tinnie mooring facility is adjacent to the public wharf. This is based on considerations of weather, ease of usage by commuters and costs.

- As at 17th June, 35 Islanders continue to express firm interest in joining a tinnie mooring co-operative.
- The DIMC facility is being modelled on the Brooklyn Mooring Co-operative (BMC) structure that currently exists opposite McKell Park on Brooklyn side. However, engineering design calls for pontoons to be made of concrete and be a bit bigger than those at the BMC, in order to cope with the less favourable weather and currents around Dangar. The pontoons will be 15cm taller and 50cm wider than those at the BMC marina. The berths will be exactly the same. This is very much a tinnie mooring facility and NOT a commercial style marina.
- Once the DIMC proposal is finalised it will be publically presented to the Island through the League. I am sure that the DIMC subcommittee will be most pleased to hear your comment.
- Contrary to misinformation that has been circulated by one interest group on the Island, the DIMC facility is certainly not a foregone conclusion. There are still many hurdles to cross, in particular the regulatory process that will involve Council, Government bodies and the public. A permanent mooring facility cannot be built without having to go through the required regulatory process.

The League is working to try and create a safe and convenient tinnie mooring facility on the Island for those who do not have direct access to the water. I wish to thank Anthony Schinckel and his subcommittee on the DIMC for their hard work and I encourage them to continue.

If you have concerns regarding the work of the DIMC, please call me on my mobile 0414 563 149.

Regards

(Signed hard copy posted in all DI letterboxes 2/07/13)

Bronek Karcz

President – Dangar Island League

P.S.

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