

“Dangar Island Mooring Cooperative”

Newsletter

January 2012

Happy New Year, and welcome to the first newsletter of the “Dangar Island Mooring Cooperative”.

We will use this forum to disseminate information about progress and activities of the DIMC. Most of you know about this project, from public meetings over the past 18 months, notes in the Mullet Mail etc.

What is DIMC and who are we ?

At present “we” are a sub-committee of the Dangar Island League, comprising Ron Barelle, Antony Schinckel, Sue Merrick, Stuart Allen, Michael Dean, David Pakes, and Tom Weddin. However, in the near future, the DIMC will be an independent Coop with no legal ties to the League.

We will be providing regular-newsletters as progress is picking up. Initially these will come from us as the League Wharf subcommittee, but will move to being a newsletter from the Coop once it is formed.

What is the purpose ?

In summary the aim of the DIMC is to provide a resident’s/commuter’s tinny berthing facility somewhat akin to the Brooklyn one. As part of solving a lack of moorings for island residents, we are also working with Hornsby Shire Council and Maritime NSW to solve two other issues – handicapped access to the island, and small boat access for visitors.

How do I keep abreast of what is happening:

The website (<http://web.me.com/payniac/DILeague/page10/styled-8/index.html>) will be the primary source of information updates. It currently contains notes of the previous public meeting held on 31 July 2011 and Hornsby Council’s Report on this project.

Please note that the previous surveys were exactly that – surveys to determine overall interest levels, get broad first draft agreement on proposed rules and operating mechanisms, and additionally to provide Council with a degree of confidence to assist us in this project. They were not an application for membership.

We are keen to have all residents and owners informed about the application process, so everyone who may be eligible has an opportunity to obtain a berth. Please assist us by giving us your relevant contact details, preferably an email address as that is the easiest and most reliable. If you do not have email we will mail you the same information but please make it 100% clear if you only want to be contacted by postal mail. Newsletters will be emailed and placed on our

website. Paper copies will only be mailed to those who specifically request a non-electronic contact mechanism.

Costs

We will not know final costs until Council get final quotations in, (refer to the schedule below – approximately March/April 2012, depending on Maritime Grant timing etc). All current indications are that costs will be as previously indicated; i.e. between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

In order to proceed, we need to have a firm commitment that we have enough takers, so that Council know that the project is feasible. If not, they will proceed with their area of responsibility (disabled access) without our involvement and we will lose the opportunity to have an Island berthing facility for a very long time.

We anticipate that those who wish to obtain a berth will need to individually put up a deposit of around \$5,000, so Council can be confident that there is enough commitment.

This money will go into a separate (DIMC) banking account, probably with the Bendigo Community Bank at Berowra.

We, as a committee, are seriously dedicated to minimizing any “at risk” up-front costs, but some will be inevitable and non refundable even if the project does not go ahead. These will relate to some costs we will incur during the earliest phases of the project but before we have full and final approval (e.g. some legal fees, Coop incorporation costs etc). It is currently difficult to estimate the level of these, but we would hope they are less than a few hundred dollars per share.

Formal applications

We will soon be asking residents to make a formal application to the DIMC for membership, including a requirement for a partial payment of the projected berthing cost. This will occur during February.

Current status:

We have made proposals to the Hornsby Shire Council and Maritime NSW and both groups agree in principle to this combined wharf upgrade, incorporating the handicapped access aspects, some public berthing locations and the berthing coop. Maritime in fact is highly supportive of this integrated approach. HSC would need to act as the managing entity for the construction, as the existing wharf belongs to them and they will need to oversee the contract and implementation, ensuring the wharf changes and extension meet relevant standards etc.

At this point we are waiting to hear from HSC that they have agreement with Maritime NSW for their component of the funding. HSC will then contract with a suitable engineering company to do a feasibility study and detailed design.

