

**Submission  
No 510**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr Andrew Hestelow

**Date received:** 5/11/2012

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Roseville boat ramp is situated on the eastern side of Roseville Bridge, on Sydney's North Shore:



It is the main boat ramp north of Sydney Harbour, and is heavily congested on summer weekends. On special days - like Australia Day - parking availability is exhausted, and access to the ramp is closed.

The boat ramp is within Garigal National Park, and is administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The parking and launching area have been extensively modified with tarred roads and landscaping, and have no apparent environmental value.



Regular users are well aware of problems endemic to the ramp. They include:

parking ticket machines which regularly break down;

toilets over one kilometre away, meaning bushes are often used for that purpose;

heavy parking fees;

and regular failure of the coin operated washdown hoses.

But the biggest problem is congestion on the boat ramp itself. With boat ownership growing exponentially over the past two decades, facilities have fallen way behind. Earlier this year, an upgrade of Roseville ramp was announced, to be funded jointly by the Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW Maritime.



To the best of my knowledge, there was no genuine consultation with users. The work commenced in April, and is still unfinished. Here's the toilet block in late October 2012:



Local boater Arthur writes, in July:



Hi Andrew, latest photos on the progress of the ramp upgrade at Roseville, apparently it will be ready by 10 July! You be the judge. By the way I took these today 8 July. Hope they remember to fill in the big hole next to the ramp .... looks more like the end of July at this rate.



Hey Andrew, went down to the Roseville ramp on Sat, 30/6, to check out the progress. As you can see it's still a bit of a mess. The new finish date is 6/7. Yeah right! Just saw the pig squadron do the famous fly over. Regards, Arthur



FRIDAY Just another update on the Roseville ramp. Went down there today, about 1.30pm, to see how the finished ramp and pontoon looks. They still haven't finished the floating pontoon section, there was only one bloke working & he wasn't exactly breaking out a sweat. This is just getting beyond a joke. If there are major issues how about communicating with the people who use the ramp, in this case hoping to use the ramp, what the reason for the hold up is. If there are serious issues then let us know, it's not hard to do. All that's happening now are people getting really pxxx off.

Boat ramp user Craig writes:

I read the bit in your newsletter about the ramp. I've had a whinge to Parks and Maritime (it was a collaboration) as I also think it is a disgrace. Let me know if I can offer you any support if you decide to take it further.



A floating pontoon has been installed in the centre of the boat ramp, in theory reducing launching lanes from four to three. That is, one lane on the southern side of the pontoon, and two on the northern side.



Placing two steel bollards in the centre of a boat ramp will ensure damage to cars and boats. And in reality, launching lanes have been reduced from four to two. That is, halved. The reason being that the majority of boat owners are not proficient or confident enough to use the two narrow lanes north of the pontoon, with confidence. Understandable, given their lack of space.



The lack of planning and the absence of consultation exacerbated the congestion problem. Verbal exchanges are already taking place. A boat owner writes about his experience at the ramp, on the last Saturday in October 2012:

Last weekend, there was chaos at the ramp and it wasn't even busy. I politely asked a guy if he could move his boat back so I could retrieve mine (as had tied it off and the base of the ramp ergo crippling that lane) and he told me to (quote) "xxx off and wait like everyone else".

So clearly, something needs to be done to rectify the ramp and put it back to four lanes, relocate the long skinny pontoon to the southern side and erect some decent signage of the do's and don'ts.

Physical altercations will occur this summer. Brian writes, in April 2012:

Just to let you know the proposed closure of Roseville Boat Ramp has been set back to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. It seems they got the idea. I was there on Good Friday and I reckon there were 200 boats out. We were so lucky to get out and then back in on a clear ramp. We were thinking of coming back in the afternoon to set up a score card display for best/worst boat retrieval/dummy spit effort.

Two hundred boats, to be launched in two boat lanes? The mistaken positioning of the pontoon has cluttered the ramp and produced blind spots, which is of particular concern given the number of small children wandering around the ramp while their parents launch or retrieve boats.

The answer is simple. The pontoon needs to be moved 20 m southwards, to align with the cleaning table. Not complicated, and not expensive. This will double the launching area and reduce the risk of a child being run over. Here's a friend's take on the situation:

The walkway in front of the cleaning table with an expanded mesh walkway from the ramp to the pontoon would have made a superb facility. It would also act as a breakwall for wash coming from the main river, making the ramp safer. You would also have to ask why they have built a toilet block that eliminates 6 car/trailer parking spots, when it could have gone on the site of the old building. They told me that it was a plumbing issue but I know for a fact that there was plumbing in place when they knocked down the old building. The whole project is a downgrade of the facility. The only upside is the ramp surface is at least flat and even, and I think they improved the gradient as well.

# Ramp change irks boaties

## PONTOON CUTS ROOM TO SAIL

DAVIDSON boat ramp users have been left scratching their heads, as the \$1 million dollar upgrade has created more problems than answers.

The upgrade, which included a new on-ramp pontoon, has left patrons with less room to manoeuvre their boats in and out of the water than before.

Seasoned fisherman Craig McGill said the busiest times would create gridlock.

"You're down to one lane, from four," he said. "The pontoon should have been built on the point to the right. It would have created a breakwater and freed a lane on the ramp."

He runs fishing charters from the ramp and said the upgrade is not all bad news.

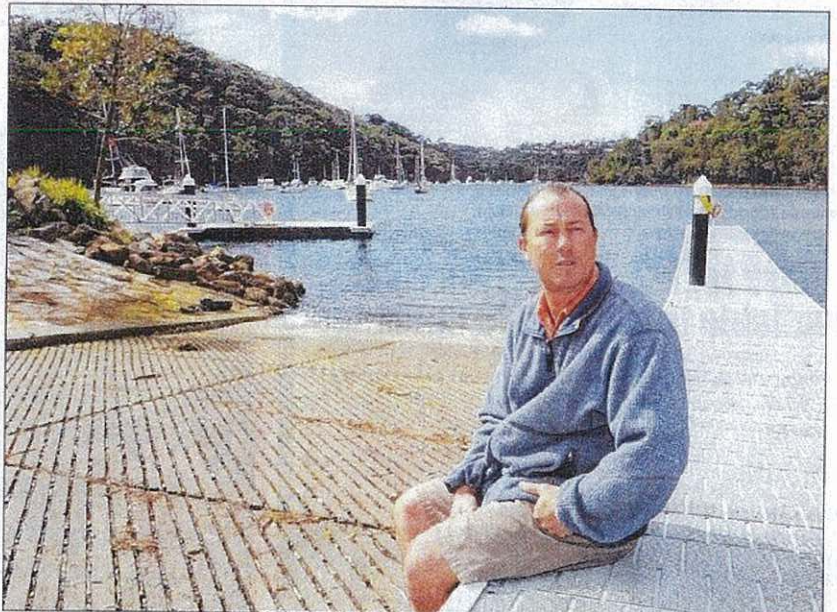
### IN A NUTSHELL

- \* \$1 million dollar upgrade
- \* New pontoon built in the middle of the ramp
- \* Pontoon reducing room to launch and retrieve boats during the peak times
- \* Details: [maritime.nsw.gov.au](http://maritime.nsw.gov.au)

"They've done the surface up and that's vastly improved," he said.

A Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) spokeswoman said that The National Parks and Wildlife Services is preparing signage on the pontoon to advise boaters of the correct procedures for launch and the retrieval, so boats are moved quickly.

*By work-experience student Michael Lorigan*



Fisherman Craig McGill has raised concerns about the upgrade of Davidson boat ramp. Picture: ELENOR TEDENBORG

Happy to expand on this issue whenever an opportunity presents itself,

Andrew Hestelow  
Managing Director