

Submission
No 532

INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING

Name: Mr John O'Rafferty

Date received: 9/03/2010

John & Liz O'Rafferty

8th March 2010

The Director
Select Committee on Recreational Fishing
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney 2000

Dear Sir,

Last Sunday my Son & I went fishing. Saturday afternoon I prepared the boat, filled it with fuel \$58, bought the ice & bait, \$22 & replaced a few bits & pieces of tackle, a further \$18, total \$98.

Got to the boat ramp nice & early to find quite the line up of boats & trailer's all with the same intention, get out there, catch a feed & have a bloody good day! Whilst waiting our turn on the ramp, Son popped over to the nearby bakery & bought us each a nice hot pie to start the day, yum (\$7.00).

Off to sea we went returning just before midday with a couple of nice size Snapper for the table & a few tasty Flathead. We caught & released a number of different species but only brought home what we needed. Not a huge haul but all we needed & a great morning out, Father & Son bonding.

On return we cleaned & scaled our catch, swapped stories with the others fishers whilst eyeing off how well they went. Great camaraderie & lots of laughter!! I might add that no one we saw brought in undersize or over amounts of any species, responsible fishers all.

The mandatory salad role & bottle of coke from the bakery before we headed home (another \$13), what a great morning!

I estimate there were at least twenty boats launching in the morning, and the ramp I use is only one of several in the area.

So what's my point? My Son & I have spent \$118 directly related to this one outing. This does not take in to account the money we have invested in the boat & all our fishing tackle, it does not take in to account the money we regularly spend at the local boat dealer having our boat serviced or updated & replacing gear. It does not take in to account the registration costs of boat & trailer & our fishing licences.

We can assume most of the other fishers spent similar amounts as well and there were many boats bigger than ours requiring more fuel & with more fishers on board more bait etc etc etc.

The knock on impact of this dollar spend within the Camden Haven Community every week, increasing four fold during holiday periods is what keeps the area ticking over. I have lived here since 1982 & God know how much I have spent on boating & fishing over that period but it is what I love & why I moved here in the first place. Both my Son's have grown in to keen fishers & I am looking forward to teaching my 2 year old Grand Son the art of catching a fish in the coming years.

IF I CAN!!!

The NPA (National Parkes Association) wish to lock up the Camden Haven in to another Marine Reserve, so would have me sitting on my verandah whittling a stick & reminiscing about the good ole days when I used to go fishing!! No more days out fishing & bonding with my Son's & spending time teaching the Grand kids let alone supporting local businesses!

I can only assume the members of the NPA have never experienced the joy of wetting a line, are obviously not aware of the numbers of people who enjoy it or the vast amounts of money they spend in pursuit of their past time. They are obviously not concerned about the financial impact on coastal communities that expanding Marine Park Reserves will have.

In almost 30 years I have seen fish stocks come & go in the area; one week you catch more than you need the next you hardly loose a bait! That's the way it is!!

I implore the Committee to use common sense in their decision making on expanding NSW Marine Park Reserves. NPA & NP&WL seemingly refuse to release any reports on the success or failure of those Marine Parks already established & until it can be proved beyond doubt that recreational fishing impacts negatively on fish stocks & the eco system, any expansion of these reserves must not even be considered.

Recently my eldest Son indicated interest in purchasing one of the local Boat Bait & Tackle Shops. His dream to own his own business. My advice to him? Whilst ever these Marine Reserve's are on the agenda, regardless of how high up the priority list, do not even think about purchasing such a business, you could just as likely buy it only to go broke the following year as trade disappears as a result of a new Marine Park Reserve.

So already the proposal is having an impact, discouraging would be business owners & making it even more difficult for those in business to sell.

I am the first to expound the beauty of the area in which we live, it is paradise, those lucky enough to live here will all agree. But those people in business here know what a struggle it is to make ends meet most of the time. With the large centres only 30 minutes away it is increasingly difficult to make a quid in the smaller coastal towns & villages. The last thing we want is for the area to loose it's appeal & the reason why people come here in the first place.

I implore your Committee, wipe the NPA proposal for increased marine Park Reserves & give certainty back to our coastal communities so we can get on with living without this looming over our shoulder!!

Thank you



John O'Rafferty (& Sons & Grand kids)