

Submission
No 33

**INQUIRY INTO ACCESS RESTRICTIONS TO PUBLIC
LANDS AND WATERWAYS**

Organisation: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 July 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission on behalf of the

to

Hon Mark Banasiak MLC
The Select Committee on Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Our club is keen to see the Bowraville Off River Storage, known locally as Bowra Dam, used for recreational activities, especially fishing. We have previously contacted The Nambucca Shire Council pointing out the benefits to tourism and locals but without success. We are writing this submission in the hope that you might be able to further our proposal.

The Bowra Dam is a hidden treasure waiting to be used, not for drinking water but for recreational water use. Our Council needs to add this asset to the tourist ventures in our valley and reap the financial gains that it could bring to our shire.

We propose that a gated venue with car parking and boat ramp for canoes and kayaks and electric powered watercraft be established. Powerboats and water skiing would not be considered suitable. A day visitors fee could apply or a permit or a yearly fee, like our Beach Permits. The venue could be established for day use only with no camping.

Our shire has stagnated over the last 20 years with no new developments or attractions for families to amuse themselves. The Valley has been overlooked as a holiday destination for many years, and we cannot just rely on our pristine beaches and river to attract visitors.

We have lost our river cruise and houseboat business due to river silting up. The estuary fishing has not brought in extra tourists as the river fish stocks are competed for by both recreational and commercial fishers.

The dam could be stocked with Australian Bass as are many other Dams in NSW. For example, Malpas Dam at Guyra is a domestic water supply for Armidale when there water reserves are low. This dam has a Yacht and Fishing Club and the dam is stocked with Trout, Bass and Redfin perch. It has a locked gate and only members of the Clubs can drive in and launch their watercraft. Motor boats, sailing boats, canoes etc. are permitted. Others can walk in through the gate and fish or walk the banks, day visitors only.

Queensland has many stocked dams and has a permit system (fees) to access their waterways with electric motors only used on boats and watercraft. Artificial baits, flies and lures are only used, and bait fishing would not be allowed. No pets allowed to interfere with the native wildlife.

Walking trails could be established around the foreshore with a locked car park as entry point with a boat ramp. Local fishing clubs could raise monies to stock the dam with suitable fish. The
would be interested in doing this and seeking grants from the Recreational Fishing Trust to build amenities and improve the site.

We trust that this submission is given serious consideration and that this public waterway be opened up for public use and the betterment of the local community.