

**1. INTRODUCTION**

These guidelines have been prepared by Noosa Council's Environmental Health Section to provide information to business operators wishing to establish a new commercial business on the Noosa River.

Council receives numerous enquiries for proposed businesses on the Noosa River. Individually, these applications have merit, as most proposals are innovative and sometimes unique. However, when considered together with the high volume of other applications, the sheer number of potential approvals would seriously impact upon safety, amenity and congestion on the river.

Noosa River is already congested during peak holiday periods and has been identified as the busiest waterway in South East Queensland during these times. Activity has reached a level where stringent control over new businesses is required.

Many enquirers do not understand that the absence of a particular activity on the river does not mean they are the first to think of it. In almost every instance numerous previous enquirers will have approached the Council and have been refused approval to operate.

2. JETTY OPERATING BASE REQUIRED

Commercial water based businesses are required to operate from an approved commercial jetty. Use of private jetties for commercial activity is not allowed.

Noosa Council policy is to generally refuse endorsement of any new commercial jetties to be constructed on the Noosa River for commercial activity.

Operation of a commercial business from anchor or an approved mooring buoy in the River is not permitted.

3. FLOATING SHOPS

The Council does not support establishment of a new floating shop permanently attached to a jetty and used for commercial purposes. Applications will be refused.

4. USE OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL JETTIES

Proposed new commercial businesses may negotiate with an existing commercial jetty owner for approval to operate from a commercial jetty.

In most cases the approval of the Noosa Council and Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water (NRM&W) will be required.

In some cases the lease issued by NRM&W limits the number and type of craft, which can operate. In other cases the lease determines a seabed area, which can be occupied by commercial vessels including their manoeuvring space. You will therefore need to check the lease conditions through the jetty owner or NRM&W.

It is unlikely that an extension of an existing seabed lease area will be approved to enable an expansion in the number of commercial craft allowed to operate from the jetty to facilitate a new business. Often the existing owner will be required to remove some of the existing craft to enable the new business to fit within the lease area or to comply with the conditions of the lease.

5. USE OF BOAT RAMPS

The regular launching of commercial hire craft such as jet skis, boats, canoes, tour vessels, amphibious watercraft etc is not permitted from public boat ramps.

Boat ramps are owned by the State Government and provided for private pleasure craft. Noosa Council supervises the operation of the boat ramps. Use by commercial operators is not permitted.

6. USE OF PUBLIC JETTIES

Public jetties are provided for use by private vessel owners and are not authorised for commercial activity. A new business relying upon use of a public jetty will not be approved.

7. WASTE WATER

All vessels which are used for living onboard must be provided with suitable facilities for holding all sewage and sullage waste. This waste must be discharged to a Council approved shore based disposal system. Noosa Harbour Village and the Yacht Club have disposal facilities and approved Pump out vehicles can also operate at commercial jetties to remove waste. Queensland Boating and Fishing Patrol do regular checks of live aboard vessels to ensure that waste is being disposed of appropriately.

Further information on live aboard vessels is available on a separate “Houseboat Information Sheet”, which can be obtained from Noosa Council or at <http://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/index428.php>

8. SALE OF FOOD FROM VESSELS

The sale of food from a vessel to customers on the banks of the Noosa River is not permitted. Food may only be sold to customers on board or to occupants of another vessel.

Food should be stored and prepared in a shore-based food establishment, which is licensed for this activity including the washing up of eating and serving utensils. The storage of food at home is generally not permitted.

Food may be stored and prepared on board the vessel but this will required a higher standard of structural design and fit out of the vessel similar to the requirements for a shore-based food establishment.

The vessel and the proprietor must be licensed for the preparation and sale of food as required under the Food Act 2006.

Licensees are required to undertake a food hygiene-training course to prove competency in food hygiene.

The sale of pre-packaged food, hermetically sealed food (chips, bottled drinks etc) has less onerous requirements.

The Liquor Licensing Division of the Office of Fair Trading controls the sale of alcohol on board vessels under the Liquor Act. Contact their office (Ph 07 32247024) for their requirements.

9. RESTRICTED COMMERCIAL/PRIVATE CRAFT

Noosa Council will not agree to the commercial use of hovercraft, airboats, amphibious vessels, new commercial jet ski businesses or the landing of seaplanes or helicopters on the Noosa River.

10. FURTHER READING – THE NOOSA RIVER PLAN

During preparation of the Noosa River Plan, feedback from the public consultation process supported a significant restriction on future commercial activity on the Noosa River system. It was generally accepted that unrestrained growth of vessels on the river is not sustainable and would result in detrimental impacts on the environmental values of the river, the safety of users and people's enjoyment of the river.

The Noosa River Plan was compiled after extensive public consultation and provides guidance on the future use of the Noosa River. The recommendations in the River Plan are being investigated and implemented in consultation with a number of State Government agencies. If you would like further information on the Noosa River Plan a copy is available on the Internet at <http://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/index428.php>. A hard copy of the Noosa Plan can be obtained from Council's Planning Section at Council's Office in Pelican Street, Tewantin.

11. CONTACT DETAILS

Further information on proposed businesses on the river is available from the Council's Environmental Health Section at Council's Administration Building, Pelican St Tewantin, or by phoning 54495323, or by writing to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 141, Tewantin, 4565.

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Noosa Council

Dated 16th June 2006