



Brisbane Sailing Squadron Inc.

PO Box 47 Bulimba Q 4171

Norman Fry,
Executive Officer,
Yachting Queensland,
578 Royal Esplanade
MANLY QLD 4179

RE: Membership Proposal

Dear Norman,

Our club committee and members have discussed the YQ Membership Proposal over the past few months. The following is a summary of the views of our club.

Firstly, we understand the pressures on your revenue streams from the potential and real reduction in YQ capitation paid by social members of the bigger clubs, as well as potential reductions in government funding.

We agree that something needs to be done to address these issues.

In principle, a direct membership (rather than banding) option appears to be a reasonable solution.

However, our members do not support the suggested increases in their YQ fees.

Your proposal states that “it needs to be demonstrated that the overall benefit (to the members) outweighs the fee”. Our members don’t believe that this is, or will be the case.

If we take the current YQ/YA fees out of our senior membership fees at BSS, members will be paying approximately \$75 per annum. To our members, there is no comparison of the benefits they receive from their club membership and what they get from their YQ membership, yet YQ will be \$100 dearer. This won’t wash with our members.

Your figures are based on an assumption that the YQ operations will continue to operate and develop, as per your current strategic plan. **Our members are saying, if you can’t fund your proposed operations without a substantial increase in the member’s fees,**

then you should look at reducing your scope of operations, or find alternative revenue streams.

Many of our members have said that a smaller state association that covers the basics of administering sailing in Queensland eg. the provision of rules of sailing, grant co-ordination, and government liaison would suit their needs. For any additional “value added” services, they should only be provided where the government will support it with grants (eg elite squads) or through full user pays (courses; accommodation etc.).

The last time the constitution was reviewed, our club wrote to YQ and suggested a complete revisit of the scope of operations of YQ. Now is the time to do that.

Sailors competing in clubs throughout Queensland are your major constituents (not for example, 100 power boat licensing organizations).

We propose that your timetable for introduction of a new membership system be scrapped and that you undertake a review of your operations and potential alternative revenue streams, with heavy involvement of grass roots sailors and clubs.

Yours Faithfully,

Malcolm Thorburn
Assistant Secretary
Brisbane Sailing Squadron Inc.