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# Cleveland Yacht Club

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10 November 2008

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

RE: Membership Proposal Fees for 2009/2010

Dear Norman,

After careful consideration of all aspects of your proposed fee structure for next season we advise that our members reject it in total. It is incredible that any organisation could believe in today's economic environment, that such an increase could be achieved or even contemplated. Any new fee proposed will need to be in line with CPI movements.

Pricing of all goods and services is set by the market forces of supply and demand therefore after careful consideration of the level of support and services offered by Yachting Queensland we do not believe any increase is warranted. In addition when the current fees are compared with New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria your organisation is shown to be a high cost provider of few benefits to its members.

To levy any fee on volunteers who give freely of their time and energy is outrageous. Like the State and Federal Government, we should be applauding these valuable members of the community who support sailing in many cases at the expense of attending family functions.

As the majority of the valuable benefits are already provided by Yachting Australia we recommend you review your offerings and tailor your budget, like all organizations, to reflect a level of expenditure that may be supported by available funding.

Your vision statement to "dominate boating nationally in terms of participation and performance" appears flawed. Why does Yachting Queensland need to "dominate" any thing? We would prefer the organisation to foster opportunities to enter the sport of sailing and grow overall participation regardless of the level of expertise of the individual sailors or class of vessel. We congratulate the many sailors who have represented Australia, regardless of what state or territory they belong too but like other sports they need to belong to the same user pays scheme.

There is no way our club/association will enter into any Memorandum of Understanding to police membership of Yachting Queensland. We, like most clubs, rely on volunteers to manage all aspects of sailing and will, if necessary, alter our Notice of Race to remove the need to hold a Silver Card or belong to Yachting Queensland for next season unless a responsible approach is adopted to fees.

In addition there is a need for the Current Banding System to be transparent if Yachting Queensland decides to continue with this system. Clubs and Association need to be able to ascertain the cost of continued association with Yachting Queensland without having to await an invoice.

Your Strategic Plan for 2007/2010 in its objectives is to “promote and encourage the knowledge and education of people participating in boating”. Is it your intention to represent all fishing clubs and boating clubs in Queensland? If so will they pay the same fees as sailors?

The conclusion on page 7 of your proposal may be correct that “the current amount of funding is not sufficient to meet future needs, nor is enough to allow YQ to introduce new development into the sport in Qld.” In most organisations this realisation would lead to a total review of all activities current and proposed. In addition a market survey would need to be undertaken to ascertain whether or not the members require the service and if so to rank each service to enable tailoring and allocation of funds.

There are many more aspects of past performance and current activities that require attention but to maintain focus on the current proposal they will be deferred to enable Yachting Queensland the opportunity to comprehensively review their operations and budgeting practices.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Lacoste', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Al Lacoste  
Commodore