



18 November 2008

Mr Norman Fry
Executive Officer
Yachting Queensland
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The members of Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club Inc, reject the affiliation proposal draft in its entirety.

While we appreciate the difficulties that the current banding system has created for Yachting Queensland, our members have grave concerns regarding this new affiliation model.

Of particular concern are the following areas:

Direct Individual Membership of YQ: In the list of benefits, YQ indicates that this model will provide *increased funding* and have *less reliance on Government grants*. Smaller sailing clubs rely on outside funding sources to improve facilities and assist with club operations. Increasing member fees is the least likely way for our Club to *increase funding*, particularly in the current economic climate.

Perceived Membership Benefits: After reading through the list of benefits in Annex A, the majority of our members indicated that they did not perceive these to be of benefit at all. The silver card was the only item they felt had any value to them, as half of our members are only interested in participating in local club sailing events.

Value of Membership: The proposed fee structure received strong objection from our members. For all categories of membership the nominated fee was far too high in relation to the overall benefits. The individual fee structure proposal will immediately disenfranchise any non-racing sailor from maintaining membership with YQ. This will have additional impact of causing many casual racing sailors not to affiliate and to forgo racing. Many smaller clubs rely upon these casual racers to act as rescue boat crew for their operation throughout the year. Smaller clubs will not sail through lack of volunteers.

Many found the proposed levee on officials, volunteers and coaches to be offensive. In our particular situation, many of our members filling these positions are life members in our club. We have always included these members in our figures sent to YQ, and their affiliation fee component has been paid from club funds. To continue this policy under the current proposal would require our club to pay an extra \$1200, costs we would be forced to pass on to our sailing members. Any other non-sailing members who currently volunteer will soon be driven away when asked to pay YQ for the privilege to volunteer their time within the sport of sailing. Family members have indicated that they will not affiliate based on the proposed fee. LCSC cannot support any proposal that will result in excessively increased fees to our members.



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Value of Affiliation – Clubs: We believe that the MOU that our club would be required to sign would only place greater pressure on our volunteers. Considerably more time would be spent on ‘policing’ competitors, viewing silver cards or searching for valid affiliations online. This also places added pressure on club executive officers to ensure that our volunteers have the necessary skills and are provided with adequate resourcing to undertake these tasks. How is Yachting Queensland going to ensure each MOU is enforced?

The overview of the distribution a member’s fee, as detailed on page 6 was quite alarming. To see that over 50% of funding is being channelled into wages and administration, leads us to believe that perhaps review of current operations is required to consider how economic savings may be achieved, rather than imposing excessively high fees, expecting that sailors will make up the shortfall.

Sailing clubs are the membership of YQ. Sailors are members of sailing clubs. Once sailors affiliate with YQ, will there be any need for them to join with a local club? When local clubs fold and introduction to sailing ceases, the state organisation will also see its demise.

YQ role is not to offer benefits to entice individuals to join YQ. YQ role is to support its members, being the “sailing clubs”. YQ need to focus on its core value or goal, assisting and representing sailing clubs.

Yours sincerely,

Stacey Brown

Commodore

Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club Inc