

AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

NSW 2015 to 2018



President General: Robert Smith BM
Secretary General: Merv McFie
Treasurer General: Roe Martin

Mail : 15 Little St Harrington NSW 2427
Ph 02 65560338, 0413327057.

E tffish@bigpond.com, hcag@outlook.com



Re: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AT CROWDY HEAD A MUSEUM, EDUCATIONAL and RESEARCH CENTRE BASED ON FISHING AND MARINE RELATED INDUSTRIES

The Hon. Leslie Williams, MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001
(02) 8574 7390
(02) 9339 5556

14 February 2016

Dear Minister (Leslie)

On behalf of The Australian Anglers Association I wish to bring to your attention, and also seek your assistance, support and advice in the establishment of a Marine/fishing museum and education centre at Crowdy Head, New South Wales.

Like all projects of this nature is important to have or establish a suitable site. The Association believes the former Crowdy Head Public School site along with the former Crowdy Head Fish Co-op Building with the utilization of the Crowdy Head Boat Harbour offers a unique set of Government assets to be utilized for the greater good and public benefit. This area is also fortunate to have easy access to The Crowdy Bay National Park.

It is important at this point to make you aware of the property at Crowdy Head, firstly with the former Crowdy Head Public School buildings situated on 2.024 hectares of land. The school has been closed, some infrastructure has been removed and the remaining buildings being unused and are rapidly deteriorating. Photo attached

The second major area is the now defunct Crowdy Head Fishing Co-op building and infrastructure. The Harbour is now a dismal and a virtually defunct fishing industry, albeit a few small lobster fishing

operations. The old Crowdy Head Fishing Co-op building is understood to be subject to a dispute or ownership claims. The public has been informed that the building had been sold to a Port Macquarie Restaurant Operator for removal within two years. That is now over three years with the present legal position unknown.

We understand that the area may have one or two Aboriginal Land Claims which are part of a long State wide list currently being assessed.

In seeking the Federal Government, State Government and our Greater Taree City Council's assistance plus community support to establish a Fishing and Marine museum for this regional area our association believes there are also opportunities to incorporate, develop and establish an education centre along with a marine research facility. The association considers there are numerous opportunities to involve local and external schools plus incorporating the involvement of universities in research and their students studies. With the available land there are also opportunities to develop accommodation for visiting students. The association believes this is a tremendous opportunity to involve our membership, gain support of the local communities and most importantly it opens numerous opportunities not only for the members of local and external aboriginal councils but other involvements especially from the western regions of our state.

The Australian Anglers Association has been in continual existence since its inception in Newcastle NSW in 1947. That was followed by some public meetings which were then formalised with an inaugural foundation meeting at Newcastle Trades Hall in 1949. This was in conjunction with a fishing competition in and around the Newcastle Port Stephens area.

To establish a Museum on this site for our region would be a major tourist attraction, create an education centre whilst surrounding the history of the organised recreational fishing. The association has a vast number of historical memorabilia and records etc..... to highlight and display of the history of recreational and commercial fishing of the region and State.

The association believes it can assist in the support of such establishment through its vast membership,. The NSW Fishing Clubs Association has two hundred member fishing clubs alone

The establishment of a Marine Precinct at Crowdy Head would be an excellent site usage of utilizing the available assets of Crowdy Head with its safe pocket harbour, excellent boat launching facilities, safe and expansive beaches. The Manning River including the estuary with the uncompleted seawalls and breakwalls along with the nearby State Park, the nearby Crowdy Bay National Park, the Cattai Wetlands Nature Reserve, Big Swamp region and nearby forestry area all add to the magnificent opportunities for a rich environmental study area involving and linking into our fishery resources for the state. Therefore by the addition of the proposed project it can only add to the tourist visitations and includes attraction for industry for this whole region, creating opportunities for additional local employment and business investments in the area

A museum involving all facets of maritime/fishing recreational and commercial fishing, surfing, plus underwater diving or various groups and opportunities for training of our sea cadets all add to the increased activity and tourism for the local region. The region has easy access to the Pacific Highway along with excellent rail, bus and air transport through Taree and Port Macquarie.

Additionally the Crowdy Head central location to all the towns and villages of the Manning

Region, plus easy access to the Forster, Port Macquarie, Newcastle Regions makes it an attractive proposition for marine research for all schools in the region. Should a limited residential area be established it would offer further opportunities for study and research, and school visits.

The establishment of the centre at Crowdy Head, would be of tremendous benefit to the Tourist Industry and businesses of the area. This give the impetus for people to visit not only Crowdy Head but it also opens up other tourist activities to the visitors. The marning is generally regarded a socially and economic poor area, and this is another opportunity to create and open the door for a new business activity. Additionally it brings into play government assets that are not being used, and creates an opportunity for the use of those assets for the benefit of the community.

Finally as the Association is fully aware of the many Government Departments and community interests, we do request your assistance , support and advice for the establishment of such a Museum and Marine Centre. We believe there is an urgent need for all interested parties to be involved firstly in establishing the availability of the former Fishing Cooperative building and availability of any harbour facilities and secondly the status of the Crowdy Head school site.

Projects for sustaining this type of community interest have been proposed before through Taree City Council where it is understood that similar projects of such a centre were applied for under the Howard Government Federation Funding back around 2002.

The next step in the equation will be to register the interest and goodwill of those Departments, Council and Community Groups, establish a working party so the as to conduct the necessary feasibility studies, assess the financial details and management arrangements to bring this project home in the overall interest of the community.

The Association(s) believe that this project must be seriously considered by all levels of Government and will assist wherever possible

Personalised correspondence forwarded to the following by email.

Federal:

Prime Minister The Hon Malcolm Turnbull
Deputy Prime Minister The Hon Barnaby Joyce
Senator John Williams
Dr David Gillespie Member for Lyne

NSW

Premier The Hon Mike Baird
The Hon Duncan Gay MLC Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight
The Hon Stuart Ayers Minister for Tourism
The Hon Niall Blair Minister for Land and Water
The Hon Leslie Williams MP Member for Port Macquarie
The Hon Stephen Bromhead MP Member for Myall Lakes

GTCC

Mayor Paul Hogan
GM Ron Posselt

Aboriginal Land Council

MVBC
Mr Steve Attkins

Environment and Cultural Heritage Centre Working Group

On authority:

Robert Smith B.M.

Robert Smith BM
President General
Australian Anglers Association
President
NSW Fishing Clubs Association

Attachments:

Crowdy Harbour,



Co-Op building,



Crowdy School,



Crowdy Public Boat Ramp

