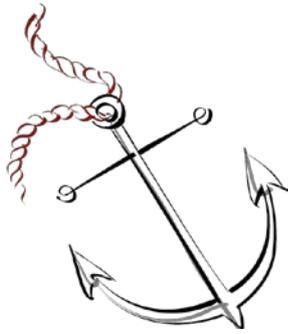


PORT GEOGRAPHE LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



PO BOX 1456
BUSSELTON WA 6280
portgeographeloa@gmail.com

The Chief Executive Officer.
City of Busselton.
Locked Bag No 1.
BUSSELTON.W. A 6280.

Dear Sir,

With due respect we find your response of 19 December 2017 in relation to our flyer typical of previous responses whereby the City again declines to address the core issue – which is the discriminatory nature of the SAR collection.

Your comment that the percentage is no longer 22% of the annual rate is technically correct, brought about by the SAR being tied to inflation rises only since 2002. But this is irrelevant to the core issue.

Land owners of Port Geographe have contributed much to the overall development of Port Geographe, not only towards present and future annual maintenance costs, but also to the actual development. Without the purchase of residential land within the precinct there would be no waterways.

The State Government and the ratepayers of Port Geographe are the only people making a contribution to the waterways and foreshore maintenance. There is no other sector of the City of Busselton being asked to pay solely for a major public asset.

Estates such as Vasse and Provence do pay a SAR for landscaping primarily for the benefit of their residents. But the City surely would not argue that people from throughout the State would come in droves to the Vasse and Provence parks and gardens for recreational purposes.

Port Geographe is analogous to a community infrastructure. For example, if a local road is built for public use, the maintenance cost is paid through a number of different sources, including road users, city rates and other tax forms. In other words, everybody contributes.

This is the crux of our dispute: - **We at Port Geographe pay a fee while others go out to sea for free.**

Your response mentions the SAR paid by Mandurah Canal lot owners. There are two main canal facilities at Mandurah. Port Mandurah has no public boat ramps and is used mainly by

the canal landowners and power boat and yacht clubs, with the launching ramps within those Club facilities.

Port Bouvard is the other facility and while land owners pay a SAR, the public using the waterways via the boat ramps pay a parking fee or annual fee. Port Geographe is comparable to Port Bouvard, the difference being that the users of the Port Geographe facilities do not make any contribution.

At Port Geographe people in increasing numbers enjoy recreational fishing from the man-made beaches and groynes adjoining the parks. These parks are used by visitors and locals alike especially families with children. There are numerous additional examples of the public use of the Port Geographe facilities.

Whilst not a Designated Port in the sense of say Bunbury, it is an important commercial and recreational facility, and is designated as such on official marine charts. Numerous charter vessels operate out of the port. There are comprehensive facilities for commercial and recreational boaters. Port Geographe is a port by any definition and you are absolutely correct in using the term in all your official documents.

In a nutshell there has to be a reinstatement of the 25% contribution from general revenue to be placed in the Port Geographe Waterways Management Reserve Fund. This was the original agreement and a much fairer system than the current arrangement, which financially discriminates against one sector of ratepayers of the City of Busselton.

The SAR system as it currently operates in relation to Port Geographe is clearly in need of an overhaul, together with a review of the use of funds held in the Waterways Management Reserve Fund.

To rectify the unfairness, the City must also embrace the user-pay principle in regard to use of the waterways. Attached is a photograph recently taken at the Port Geographe boat ramp showing it to be full with trailers from throughout the State.

We request a formal review of the current arrangements in consultation with all of the stakeholders including the Port Geographe Land Owners Association.



Kevin Strapp
Chair PGLOA
kjstrapp@bigpond.com
31 January 2018