

## Community consultation on changes to public access to the working waterfront at Coffs Harbour

*NSW Department of Industry is undertaking community consultation regarding a proposal to restrict public access to the working waterfront of Coffs Harbour in the interests of public safety.*

We encourage feedback from the public on this proposed change, and want to consult with all stakeholders and the broader community to fully understand your opinions and any issues raised by the changes.

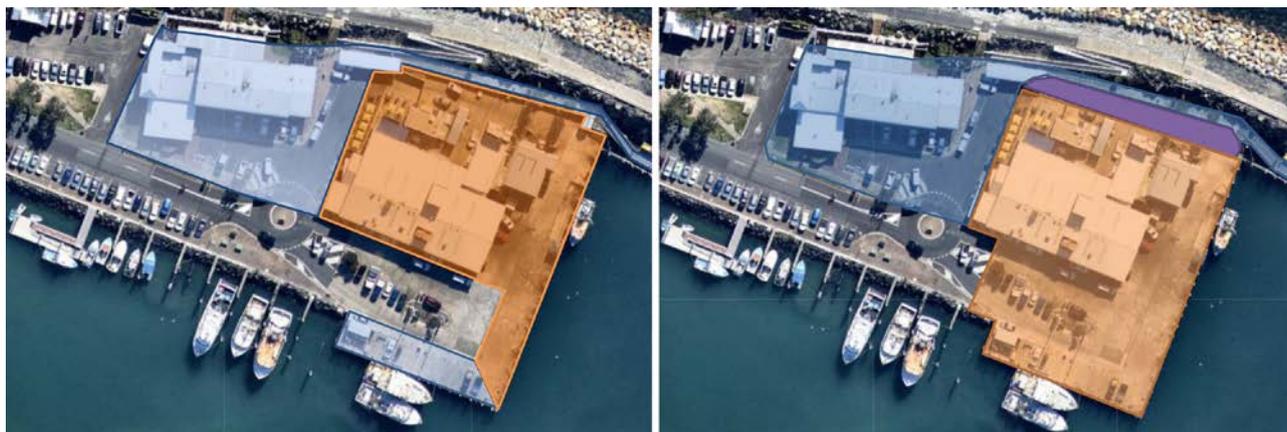
The working waterfront at Coffs Harbour is Crown land reserved for port facilities and services. It contains a range of commercial, tourism and visitor facilities and has long been a destination for locals and visitors to enjoy.

The Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-operative allows commercial fishers to land and market their fresh seafood products. Forklift trucks are used to unload and resupply vessels. There are a significant number of truck movements daily to transport products to market as well as supply fuel and service the Co-op's retail outlet.

The *Work Health and Safety Act (2011)* requires every employer to provide safe work practices and a safe work environment. Talks between SafeWork NSW, the Co-op, Coffs Harbour International Marina and the department have identified that the current unrestricted access to the working waterfront poses a high risk to the public and that public access should be limited to avoid situations that may result in injury or death.

### The proposal

The department wants to offer secure tenure to the Co-op and International Marina to allow them to invest in new facilities. We propose to change the lease boundaries to allow the Co-op to take over management of the working waterfront as shown in Figure 1. A proposed new lease for the International Marina includes wider access to the marina boardwalk and vessel-loading pontoon. This will not change how the community currently accesses the boardwalk.



**Figure 1. [Left] Current leasing arrangements for the Co-op (orange) and International Marina (blue). [Right] Proposed new arrangement, with an expanded Co-op lease area (orange) and a wider access to the marina boardwalk and vessel-loading pontoon (purple).**

The proposed Co-op lease stipulates that only authorised vehicles should have access to the working waterfront area, and that public pedestrian access should not be permitted during normal work hours (7 am to 5 pm weekdays).

The proposal also provides for construction of a fence and gate so that:

- authorised vehicles would need to use a swipe card for entry, or be ushered through after checking in with the Co-op management
- pedestrian access could be restricted during normal business hours but otherwise allowed for recreational fishing and sight seeing.

The Co-op would have authority to temporarily and reasonably change these arrangements in certain circumstances, for example during extreme weather events or other unforeseen situations where the public needs to be excluded for limited periods for public safety or security.

Visiting vessels (including non-Co-op fishers) will continue to have access for loading and unloading, subject to authorisation by the Co-op, which must act reasonably in setting all rules and fees.

The Co-op proposes to run organised tours at peak periods to cater for public interest in viewing the unloading of tuna and other big catches.

The Co-op will also cater for supervised school groups or other groups who seek access to the wharves (e.g. fishing tours) during business hours, if it is safe to do so and subject to a site induction.



## Benefits

The proposed changes will benefit workers and the community by:

- improving workplace safety and mitigating the risk of injury or death to members of the public
- eliminating congestion caused by uncontrolled vehicle access to improve the efficiency of commercial fishing operations
- eliminating unauthorised refuelling activities to improve environmental management of the area
- improving security around the Co-op premises and inner harbour
- providing a new tourist attraction by allowing the creation of organised tours to view the big landings and the operations of the Co-op.

## Providing feedback

To take part in the consultation on this proposed change you can:

- view the project web page at [industry.nsw.gov.au/coffs-co-op](http://industry.nsw.gov.au/coffs-co-op) and leave your comments via the 'have your say' section
- send an email to [cl.enquiries@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cl.enquiries@crowland.nsw.gov.au), including in the title the words 'Coffs Harbour Co-op'
- call 1300 886 235 to arrange an appointment to speak with a departmental officer.

We are accepting feedback through these channels up until the end of January 2019.

---

© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry 2018. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2018). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Industry or the user's independent adviser.

---