

RICHMOND VALLEY ANGLERS ACTION GROUP Inc



335 Hermans Lane
PIMLICO NSW 2478

9 May 2014

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
Cnr Cherry & Tamar Streets
BALLINA NSW 2478

Dear Paul

Thank you (and the Mayor) for the courtesy shown to John Larsson and myself at the Port Meeting. We appreciated hearing where things are up to regarding North Creek and the Richmond River in general.

We agree that this waterway is a fraction of the amenity it once was and our organisation is in support of its improvement. We prefer this happen in a way that will not impact upon critical fish habitat areas.

The Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group has not been active for many years (since the Marine Park issue was being discussed) and therefore we missed the call for Expressions of Interest in being members of this Task Force.

Recreational fishing, you will agree, is one of the big drawcards of Ballina. As both recreational and commercial fishing catches have declined rapidly in recent years, we are working with Southern Cross University (Professor Caroline Sullivan) on a survey of what has caused the decline and what needs to be done to improve things and therefore improve the Ballina economy.

At this early stage of our research it seems the reasons for the decline are many and varied and at least one of the causes is the fact that the fish have lost some 70% of their habitat for various reasons over time.

If the Council were able to expand the Task Force to include one or two representatives from our Group, I am sure we would have much to contribute in a constructive way.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsay Doust".

Lindsay Doust
President