

SOUTH SYDNEY AMATEUR FISHING ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 328, MATRAVILLE NSW 2036



Colin Rudd
Sydney Ports Corporation

Mr Rudd,

I was very concerned to hear some glaringly inaccurate statements and potentially damaging comments that you made to one of my club members at the recent community open day that was held on the 25th November at Botany Town Hall.

The comments entailed that both myself and John Burgess had somehow endorsed, approved and designed the planned boat ramp facility that SPC intends to build as part of the new Port Expansion and that we were attempting to be elected to every committee that SPC had convened and in some way frustrate the process.

To my knowledge the same comments were not only directed at my club member, but the group of people who were gathered around and partaking in the discussion.

Having been diligent in filing correspondence and requests between SPC and myself over the past few years, I am offended that such comments were made by you, considering that in all instances we were both invited by SPC to participate in original consultative meeting held by URL, we were both invited to participate in the boat ramp focus group and we both invited to participate in the current Community Consultative Committee. I cannot recall ever demanding or asking to be included in any selection process undertaken by SPC. The comments directed by you back to the group on Saturday interfered otherwise and at the very least they called into question our character and motivation for attempting to assist SPC with any community input.

The other comments relating to the boat design constantly referred to both John Burgess and myself as being happy with the design and that John Burgess had actually designed the ramp facility. Can I refer you to the minutes that SPC has provided from the boat ramp design focus group. They state very clearly our disappointment at the design that SPC has provided, in fact all the meetings we have had have been less than amicable. We have questioned the lack of protection from the breakwall, the lack of a boardwalk, the lack of a fishing platform, the conflict the lack of parking will cause. I am at odds to see how you can make such statements that we support and have had any significant input into the design of the ramp facility. In so far as telling the attendees on the day to see us if they had any problems is one of the most irresponsible and reprehensible acts I have ever encountered in all my dealings with public servants over the years.

The comments unfortunately now go beyond the sanctum of the participants on the day, with me having to listen to an update of the meeting in general conversation at my local tackle shop. I do not have the time to defend myself against the inaccurate and ill conceived statements that were made by you on the day and am extremely distressed about these comments.

My standing within the community has been tarnished and considering the time and effort that I have willingly given up freely over the years, I am distraught to think that these

Stan Konstantaras
President

South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association
PO BOX 328 Matraville, NSW. 2036

Email: pastelli@netspace.net.au

Visit us at southsydneyafa.com.au

comments will impact on the community service that I have and will hopefully continue to perform in the future. My volunteer work involves working with children, disabled and has focused on non-English speaking anglers over the last few years. I have implemented a suite of programs with the Department of Sport and Recreation and NSW DPI- Fisheries in relation to angler safety. My efforts have been recognised by NSW Government Ministers, Federal Ministers and many NSW Government Departments. These programs are going nationwide and are known internationally and have won numerous awards and commendations. Such comments only detract from my character. Having worked with John Burgess for the last 15 years at a club, state and national level the inferences made by will have repercussions for his standing within the community as well.

At a minimum I require a public, written retraction that we had been canvassed by SPC to participate in the process and that we do not endorse the current design of the boat ramp facility and are concerned that the new ramp design is inadequate. I will provide you with the details of my club member who was privy on the day to the conversation, but also require that if records of attendance were kept on the day, a copy of the same retraction of your comments made on the day will be sent to those participants.

Your final comments back to my club member basically instructed him to go and see his local member if he had any additional comments as basically the plan that was presented by SPC was the final design. Once again I am extremely disappointed to hear such advice freely given by SPC and coupled with your disparaging comments on the day find myself extremely perturbed with the entire scenario that has unfolded this last week.

Stan Konstantaras
President SSAFA
President Australian National Sportfishing Association- NSW Branch