



P.O. Box 630  
NARRABEEN NSW  
2101

20th February 2007

The General Manager  
Pittwater Council  
PO Box 882  
Mona Vale NSW 1660

Dear Sir,

Re: Careel Bay Master Plan

The draft of the Careel Bay Master Plan follows a Council's resolution on 3 April 2006. Our understanding of the gist of the Council's resolutions were:

- to identify the threats to Careel Bay and to request from the DPI Minister to declare the whole of Careel Bay an Aquatic Reserve
- to possibly incorporate controls regarding turbidity, shading, nutrients, pest species and hydrodynamics be investigated in the review of Pittwater 21 DCP
- that anchoring in Caulerpa and activities associated with Careel Bay Marina and the public wharf be reviewed
- DPI be requested to liaise with NSW maritime in order to mandate seagrass friendly moorings are used in Pittwater and to define and police 'no-anchoring' zones in Pittwater in areas with native sea grass and/or Caulerpa

Issues raised in the Careel Bay Draft Master Plan of concern to AAG include:

- AAG is fully supportive of a new, public, multi-purpose boat ramp, dinghy storage and wharf facility. We are also puzzled as to why this did not go to public exhibition as previously planned for August 2006. Similar concerns are held for the for the George St Master Plan. AAG would like to see both the boat ramp proposal and the George St Master Plan be placed on public exhibition, even if incorporated as part of the Careel Bay Master Plan or the Pittwater 21 DCP.

- Have concerns as to the reasons for the declaration of an aquatic reserve for Careel Bay, especially the sanctuary zone in the eastern area as no threat from recreational fishing and bait gathering has been identified nor proven.

- Have concerns with no-anchoring proposals in the sea grass beds, as DPI Fisheries do not see it as a high priority to disallow this. The most common reasons for seagrass degradation in the past has been dredging; agricultural, industrial and urban run-off with increased nutrients and turbidity. The Masterplan is correct in addressing these issues.

- Removal of swing moorings should be considered with care. DPI staff say that *Caulerpa taxifolia* will likely invade and infest barren sandy areas. Probably the best option is to leave the current moorings as is.

AAG recognizes the issues relating to Careel Bay, but many of these issues are not solely applicable to Careel Bay or may be covered by other plans. *Caulerpa taxifolia* being a good example as it spreads throughout Pittwater and even into Brisbane Waters. If, as DPI Fisheries staff maintain, that the spread of *Caulerpa* throughout Pittwater is related to recreational boat traffic, then Council should be looking at washdown bays at all ramps and not only Careel Bay. Other issues raised in the draft MasterPlan are covered elsewhere, such as the potential boat ramp with related issues of car and trailer parking, pedestrian access and integration with marina or public wharf would be covered in the proposals for the public boat ramp and the George Street Masterplan. The necessity for a Careel Bay Master Plan has not been clearly defined, nor its interrelation with other plans and proposals.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Ingram  
President  
Anglers Action Group (Sydney Northside) Inc.