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**Vice President**  
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**Club Captain**  
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## [Dawnbreakers Fishing Club Public Boat Ramp Submission - Annual Plan - April 2017](#)

### Overview

The Dawnbreakers fishing club is the largest fishing club in the Nelson area with almost 200 paid members and has been together for over 25 years. The club is a non-profit family club and consists of all types of fisherman from trout fishing, land based, boats, kayaks, jet skis, spear fisherman and divers. The boat ramp in Akersten Street is a critical facility for the club and is used every week of the year by club members.

With a significant increase in power boat ownership in New Zealand we are seeing huge congestion at the ramp at peak times with the facility struggling to keep up with demand. With the property market being so expensive in areas like Auckland we are seeing an increase of people moving to our region for a better lifestyle, and a big proportion of them are either bring boats with them or buying once here which is adding pressure to an already overcrowded area.

One of our club members recently setup a Facebook page to bring together users of the ramp and later marina users and in less than 6 month we have over 700 active users, this shows the level of interest in the younger generations that use Facebook alone.

[\(https://www.facebook.com/nelsonboatingcommunity/\)](https://www.facebook.com/nelsonboatingcommunity/)

The public boat ramp in Akersten Street was designed and built over 30 years ago and in its time was suitable for the amount of boats at that time. In the last 3 years this facility has seen a 131% increase in usage from power boats alone with over 100 boats getting launched in 3 hours not uncommon. On top of this add in a 63% increase in general water sports and massive demands for marina berths and more parking have made the current setup unsustainable.

### Issues

- 1) Serious lack of off road parking for cars with trailers and single car parks for crews
- 2) Marina berth holders parking in trailer parks, no dedicated area for them.
- 3) Boat ramp used as a 3 lane ramp when 4 lanes are needed to clear queues quicker. Queues can be 100 meters down the public road in the dark causing safety concerns with heavy trucks going to Talley's.
- 4) No pontoons to launch and retrieve boats, also to load passengers and stores slowing down throughput of boats from the ramp
- 5) Conflict between power boats and non power boats on ramp as there is no separation between them (boats powering up onto trailers next to people in the water is a major safety issue.
- 6) Nelson winds blow boats away from the loading pontoons in the afternoon when the wind changes to the North (sea Breeze) resulting in boats being damaged when they are blown against boat moored in the marina or up onto the rocks
- 7) Loading Pontoons design not appropriate with lack of soft fendering and areas that jut out causing damage to boats rubbing against them.
- 8) Length of loading pontoon is not enough to cope with peak times of 1 boat per minute getting launched creating large queues and boat milling around in the basin waiting for an area to park.
- 9) All users have to walk behind boats getting backed down the ramp to get to the loading pontoon area even after the installation of barriers people take the short route.



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- 10) Inadequate wash down facilities for the amount of boats using ramps now with only 2 wash down areas away from the ramp.
- 11) Traffic flows into and out of the Ackerson boat ramp area needs redesigning to create a better flow and utilize the land available better.
- 12) No security or CCTV coverage of carpark for vehicles parked overnight in the main car park and long term parking area.

### Proposal

We would like to ask Nelson City Council to immediately put funding and resources aside in this year's annual plan to address the above issues whilst bearing in mind the other user group's requirements for shared common areas and creating an area that will see boat users with a facility to take us forward another 10 years.

We would like to play an active part in the design of the area so it's suitable for bigger modern boats launching and retrieving in confined waterways with particular spot light on safety and pontoon design.

### Club Recommendations

- 1) The long term trailer park be moved to the hard stand area to create more space for car and boat trailer parking
- 2) The shed in the middle of the current boat trailer car park be moved to the hard stand area to create more space and better traffic flows in existing car park
- 3) Redesign boat carpark and old long term boat storage area including the old totally Boating site to create a better traffic flows and more off road parking for boat trailers.
- 4) Create an entry and separate exits for the trailer park, wash down area
- 5) Create single car parks for water sports groups and A & B pontoon users away from the congested launching ramp area.
- 6) Create more wash down bays with garbage collection, fish waste disposal and filleting tables with good lighting
- 7) Widen existing boat ramp to allow for installation of 3 floating pontoons (set attached concept plan) with a 90 degree floating pontoon on the eastern most pontoon extending into the marina. This will increase the speed up the launching and retrieving of water craft while making it safer.
- 8) Install ramps onto the floating pontoon against the grass bank to allow easy access for public to load and unload boats reducing the number of people walking behind backing boats.
- 9) Create a loading zone next to the floating pontoons
- 10) Remove the existing condemned sea-sports ramp and build a new one to the south east of the existing one giving more room for a shared pontoon between power boats, rowers, yachts, outriggers etc with access from the sea-sports area as well as from the grass embankment.
- 11) Install CCTV to cover the entire launching and parking areas as well as the hard stand area long term parking.
- 12) Create an overflow trailer carpark in the hardstand area with access to a pickup drop-off pontoon.
- 13) Put together an education package consisting of signage and wardens patrolling the area in the busy months. This package would educate boat ramp users on things like preparing your boat before moving in to the backing down area, dimming lights when backing down the ramp so not to blind other users, have a lookout person directing you backing so children don't get run over, washing boat and moving out of the way so others can use the wash



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down while you pack up your gear in another area, looking out for non-motorised craft, speed in the marina, harbour bylaws etc

We would also like to suggest that the council start to look at what to do in the next 10 years as the area available is already over prescribe with all the boating / water sports clubs and the marina is at bursting point. Some long term plans need to be looked at now as the above is only a stop gap measure to address safety issues around congestion and a design that is no longer suitable in this era.

Regards

Dawnbreakers Fishing Club  
President

Michael Stump

<http://nelson.govt.nz/council/consultations/consultations/>