

## Mayor Peta Pinson

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**From:** Robert Dwyer <rdwyer@laurietonclub.com.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 2 May 2021 9:04 PM  
**To:** Mayor Peta Pinson  
**Subject:** Fathers Day 2021  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to express my concerns that IRONMAN Port Macquarie may be on Fathers Day in 2021.

The email sent to the broader community on the 7th April announcing the postponement of the Ironman scheduled for the 2nd May only provided 25 days notice to the participants and community.

Surely we have time to change the date scheduled for September 5?

As you are aware the IRONMAN paralyses our community. Residents from Tacking Point to Dunbogan are landlocked for the day. It has a significant impact on our residents and businesses that suffer on the day, while a private business makes a significant surplus. Accommodation providers and hospitality businesses in Port Macquarie may benefit from this event, but it does not flow on to the Camden Haven, despite our best efforts to support the event over the years.

For the financial benefit of the greater Port Macquarie, for many years we have suffered the financial losses and cancellation of social events. There is no access to boat ramps in the Camden Haven, people from Dunbogan, Bonny Hills, Lake Cathie. Residents can't attend raffles, golf, bowls, skate parks, beaches, barbeques. Activities like these are popular on any given Sunday, doubly so on Father's Day.

2021 is not only about the financial loss. To make a conscious decision to run an event like this on Fathers Day is socially unfathomable. Fathers Day is a day people plan to meet up with family and friends, go fishing, picnic, go to a cafe. All of our picnic spots, beachside locations, boat ramps and the majority of cafes in the Camden Haven will be closed because they will be inaccessible. Most residents will not be able to leave their neighbourhoods because our connecting roads are closed all day.

Our new CEO, Dr. Clare Allen, just released her first CEO update in April. Her communication detailed her appreciation of "finding a home in a community that has a strong sense of community and pride". The thought of shutting down our community on Fathers Day does not resonate in her words.

Council needs to follow the lead of our new CEO.

**Robert Dwyer**

General Manager

Laurieton United Services Club

Ph: 02 6559 9110

Fx: 02 6559 9336

[rdwyer@laurietonclub.com.au](mailto:rdwyer@laurietonclub.com.au)