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**From:** Dani Rourke  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 May 2014 1:07 PM  
**To:** LHI Regulation Review  
**Subject:** Review of Lord Howe Island Regulation

**Changes to Lord Howe Island Regulation**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014.

I am one of the owners of Pinetrees Lodge, which is the largest accommodation business on the island. Pinetrees is also one of the largest employers on the island.

Part 4 (clauses 48-55) of the draft Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014 provides that a person can only operate a business on Lord Howe Island if the person has a licence issued by the Lord Howe Island Board. The Board has the power to alter business licence conditions or add new conditions at any time. If the business cannot comply, the Board has the power to issue fines of up to \$5,500 and/or cancel or suspend a business licence.

Needless to say, these are extremely broad powers. I am concerned about the Board's power to introduce new and possibly unreasonable licence conditions and to raise licence fees or add new fees at any time. Fee increases during the term of the licence should be agreed with the business owner or limited to an annual increase linked to CPI. (The draft Regulation already contains something similar in relation to rent increases).

The Board also has extremely broad powers in relation to suspension or cancellation of a business licence. Suspension or cancellation of a business licence is an extremely serious step, which could result in a business closing down. Business owners should have a right of appeal to an external body if the Board attempts to suspend or cancel a business license.

Please contact me if you have any questions about my comments.

Yours sincerely

**Dani Rourke**  
Director  
Pinetrees Lodge

