

Response to the Office of the State
Coroner of New South Wales

**Report into Boating Incident
Balls Head, Sydney Harbour
8 March 2008**

Coroner	Deputy State Coroner, Magistrate Hugh Dillon
Date of findings	27 April 2010
Inquest location	Glebe
Recommendation(s)	The incident was examined and reported on by the Office of the Coroner. The Coroner made two recommendations to NSW Maritime.
Status of recommendations	Closed.

Background

At approximately 9:10 a.m. on Saturday 8 March 2008 a racing type power boat being driven by Mr Peter Eagle with one other crewmember on board, Mr Geoff Burgess, flipped and capsized near Balls Head in Sydney Harbour. Mr Eagle was trapped in the boat and died. Mr Geoff Burgess was thrown from the vessel and was rescued.

**BALLS HEAD, SYDNEY HARBOUR
8 MARCH 2008**

No.	Coroner's recommendation	NSW Maritime's response ¹
1.	I recommend that the NSW Maritime Authority, with the Australian Power boat Association and any other person or body the Authority may consider appropriate, conduct a study by a suitable expert or experts into the safety of crews involved in high-speed crashes of recreational and racing power boats with a view to developing practicable measures at reasonable cost for improved standards of safety.	NSW Maritime has raised the safety issues with the Australian Power Boat Association (APBA), the governing body for power boating, for consideration at an Australian-wide level. The APBA's board is considering enhancements to the current safety initiatives as recommended by the Coroner. This recommendation is considered closed.
2.	I recommend that, if such a study is conducted particular attention be paid to the question of improving the design and equipment of such vessels to increase the survivability of crews involved in high-speed crashes.	See above. This recommendation is considered closed.

¹ The response should be considered in conjunction with the published regulations, policies and safety initiatives outlined on the NSW Maritime website and in published materials.