

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

**Report into Boating Incident
Broughton Island
11 April 1995**

Coroner	Coroner, R. J. Woodrow
Date of findings	13 May 1998
Inquest location	Raymond Terrace
Recommendations	The incident was examined and reported on by the Office of the Coroner and three recommendations were made regarding marine radio communications and safety equipment.
Status of recommendations	Closed.
Background	On 11 April 1995 two men departed Broughton Island in a 5.5 metre Haines Hunter runabout in poor conditions. The vessel overturned and both occupants were thrown into the water. One spent 20 hours in the water before scrambling onto an island where he was rescued. The body of the second occupant was never recovered.

BROUGHTON ISLAND, 11 APRIL 1995

No.	Coroner's recommendation	NSW Maritime's response
1.	<p>(T)he National Parks and Wildlife Service and or Waterways Authority¹ or other appropriate Government Authority render every assistance to the Broughton Island Lesees (sic) to maintain and service the radio equipment installed by the Lesees (sic) at the cabins on Broughton Island.</p>	<p>Marine radio monitoring in NSW is provided by volunteer marine rescue organisations. Between Nowra and Port Stephens monitoring is undertaken by three NSW Port Corporations as part of the National Coastal Radio Network.</p> <p>The VHF and 27 MHz service provided by the volunteer service covers the area at Broughton Island. While it is acknowledged that the marine radio service provided from Broughton Island played a significant role in alerting the authorities to the incident, further investment would duplicate the service already provided.</p> <p>Therefore, this recommendation was not implemented.</p>
2.	<p>(T)he Broughton Island Lessees be permitted and encouraged to maintain their leases on the island on the basis that they provide an essential communication service and safe haven for tourists and the boating public in a popular boating and camping area where weather changes can cause rough and dangerous sea conditions which can trap the inexperienced and unwary.</p>	<p>National Parks and Wildlife matter.</p>
3.	<p>(T)he Waterways Authority, Coast Guard, Water Police and Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol be given the authority to direct members of the boating public to <u>wear</u> life preserving devices carried on board those vessels at sea in conditions deemed appropriate by those authorities, i.e. in pending dangerous or adverse weather and sea conditions.”</p>	<p>NSW Maritime authorised officers have the power to issue a safety direction to any person. Volunteer organisations do not have compliance powers; the organisations do not want compliance powers because it potentially interferes with their primary role; NSW Maritime believes it is impractical for volunteer organisations to be provided with compliance powers which would</p>

¹ The Waterways Authority was renamed as NSW Maritime on 1 September 2004.

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No. Coroner's recommendation

NSW Maritime's response

substantially changes their role, and require extensive training and governance oversight.

Therefore, this recommendation was not implemented.