

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

**Report into Boating Incident
Hawkesbury River, Brooklyn
3 August 2003**

Coroner	Deputy State Coroner, Mr Carl Milovanovich,
Date of findings	N/A
Inquest location	Westmead Coroner's Court
Recommendation(s)	The incident was examined and reported on by the Office of the Coroner. While the inquest was dispensed with, the Acting Executive Officer to the Deputy State Coroner wrote to the former Minister for Transport on 17 May 2004 requesting that one issue be considered - the lighting of obstructions to navigation.
Status of recommendation	Completed.

Background

On the evening of 3 August 2003, a six metre half cabin cruiser was travelling on the Hawkesbury River when it collided with a supporting structure of a road bridge. The person on-board was observed to make heavy contact with the vessel's windscreen as a result of the collision. The body of the person was not located until some days after the collision.

**HAWKESBURY RIVER, BROOKLYN, 3
AUGUST 2003**

No.	Coroner's suggestion	NSW Maritime's response ¹
<p>(the inquest was dispensed with)</p>		
1.	<p>“One of the issues raised during the investigation was the lack of lighting on the pylons of the freeway bridge and whilst no formal recommendations have been made, the Coroner has requested that a copy of the file be forwarded to you to consider if any action is necessary.”</p>	<p>In response to this suggestion, NSW Maritime conducted a review into the marking of a safe channel under the bridge and the availability of lighting around the bridge. NSW Maritime met with representatives of the Roads and Traffic Authority to discuss the navigational requirements for vessels in the area and it was agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. install navigation day and night flashing lateral marks which are consistent with international requirements 2. provide a Notice to Mariners on any changes to the emitting light sequence 3. provide a backup power supply and vandal-proof cages for the lights. <p>NSW Maritime relies on advice from boaters and patrols conducted by NSW Maritime officers to advise when navigation lights are not operating.</p> <p>This matter is considered closed.</p>

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.