

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

**Report into Boating Incident
Murray River, Moama
15 February 1998**

Coroner	Coroner, K. R. Smith
Date of findings	8 April 1998
Inquest location	Deniliquin
Recommendation(s)	The Coroner wrote to the Waterways Authority ¹ and made one recommendation in relation to the compulsory wearing of floatation equipment.
Status of recommendations	Completed.

Background On 15 February 1998, a wake-boarder was practicing a somersault on the Murray River at Moama when he crashed heavily into the water and disappeared. His body was recovered two days later.

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

**MURRAY RIVER, MOAMA, 15
FEBRUARY 1998**

No.	Coroner's recommendation	NSW Maritime's response ²
1.	<p>.. it is not compulsory for a skier or wakeboard rider to wear this (floatation) equipment, it being a personal choice. ... (T)his question of whether or not it should be compulsory to wear flotation equipment has arisen in the past, but I would like to raise it again .. to see what, if anything, can be done to make it compulsory to wear this type of equipment.</p>	<p>A strong education campaign now results in almost 100% wearing of lifejackets by waterskiers and wakeboarders.</p> <p>This recommendation is considered closed.</p>

² 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.