

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

**Report into Boating Incident
Terranora Inlet
1 January 2005**

Coroner	Coroner, J. Linden
Date of findings	5 April 2005
Inquest location	Tweed Heads
Recommendation(s)	The incident was examined and reported on by the Office of the Coroner. One recommendation was made, relevant to NSW Maritime.
Status of recommendations	Completed.

Background

Early in the morning of 1 January 2005, a young man, a passenger on a houseboat, attempted to retrieve a vessel that had become disabled. Due to the runout tide, the male was unable to swim back to the houseboat so the master pulled up anchor and manoeuvred closer to him. The male started swimming towards the vessel and struck his head on the anchor and disappeared below the surface. He was unable to be located at the time and his body was not recovered until the next day. Toxicology showed the deceased had a high blood alcohol reading.

TERRANORA INLET, 1 JANUARY 2005

No.	Coroner's recommendation	NSW Maritime's response ¹
1.	<p>To the Police public relations: the dangers of entering the water in this state of intoxication and, indeed, allowing people to enter the water in this state of intoxication."</p>	<p>Whilst the recommendation was not made to NSW Maritime, extensive education campaigns are conducted in conjunction with Police to warn boaters of the risks associated with alcohol on the water including the "Go easy on the drink" campaign.</p> <p>Random breath test (RBT) provisions are provided in the Marine Safety Act 1998 and NSW Maritime conducts joint on water patrols with the NSW Police conducting random breath testing.</p> <p>A brochure "Don't go overboard with alcohol" is produced by NSW Maritime and information on boating and alcohol consumption is included in the Boating Handbook.</p> <p>This recommendation 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.