



**Maritime**



NSW MARITIME  
**2010 STAKEHOLDER FORUM  
PROGRESS REPORT**

The bottom of the page features several overlapping, wavy lines in various shades of blue, creating a decorative, ocean-like effect.

Front cover image: Audi Sydney Harbour Regatta; Andrea Francolini/Audi photograph

All other images, NSW Maritime unless specified

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S INTRODUCTION:

Over the past three years, NSW Maritime has been consulting widely with maritime community leaders and other stakeholders to identify how it can better meet its mission of providing safe waterways and support for the maritime community. Two Maritime Forums were convened, in 2007 and again in 2008, which have played a significant part in that consultation.

As a result of the feedback provided by the commercial operators, boating groups, maritime businesses, waterfront lessees and recreational boaters who attended the Forums, NSW Maritime is focusing its activities in five key result areas. They are:

- Boating safety
- Maritime infrastructure
- Safe and competitive ports
- Community involvement
- Maritime and the environment.

A significant amount of work has been undertaken to address the key concerns stakeholders have, but there is still plenty to do. The following report details what has been achieved since the first Stakeholder Forum was conducted and what is still to be done.

Work will continue on the planned projects identified in this report and further updates will be provided.

Comments can be forwarded to NSW Maritime's Policy, Risk and Governance Division, Locked Bag 5100, Camperdown NSW 1450.

Yours sincerely



**Steve Dunn**  
Chief Executive



# WHAT NSW MARITIME HAS ALREADY DONE



## SUCCESS IN ... SAFETY

- Commissioned a report into the amalgamation of volunteer marine rescue services, adopted the findings of the report, approved an additional \$3 million to support the establishment of the new organisation and assisted volunteer groups to finalise the delivery of Marine Rescue NSW
- Increased funding for boating education to \$3 million over three years, from 2009
- Increased funding for key safety campaigns including “You’re the Skipper, You’re responsible”
- Increased penalties for unsafe behaviour, including dangerous navigation, operating an unsafe vessel and creating excessive wash
- Increased compliance checks for vessels on Sydney Harbour with a focus on safety equipment, lighting and commercial qualifications
- Increased the powers of NSW Maritime and Water Police officers to issue enforceable directions to protect public safety on the water
- Further increased night patrols on Sydney Harbour and implemented a zero tolerance approach to defective vessel lighting

- Undertaken ongoing education campaigns on skipper responsibilities
- Developed a 3-year plan for boating education campaigns with messages on speed, lighting, cold water safety, equipment handling, alcohol and skipper responsibilities, targeted to specific demographics and using both mainstream and emerging technologies
- Introduced a passenger information sticker which outlines passenger rights and responsibilities
- Introduced a compulsory practical component for licence testing, including a logbook of practical competencies to be completed before a boat licence is issued
- Introduced a 15 knot speed limit in the vicinity of the Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Increased NSW Maritime's presence on Sydney Harbour and introduced new penalties for unsafe behaviour, speeding and creating excessive wash
- Enhanced the NSW Maritime 'webcam' network with a system of 'boating alerts' providing safety warnings when weather conditions are poor
- Extended the 'You're the skipper, you're responsible' campaign into other jurisdictions and provided boating groups including clubs and volunteer organisations with additional materials to promote key safety themes
- Conducted compliance checks at boat ramps and educated on safe boating behaviour
- Conducted targeted safety campaigns, including propeller strike, night safety and basic boating rules
- Worked with volunteer marine rescue organisations and the Marine Teachers Association to expand boating education in schools and the wider community



- Partnered with Crimestoppers and boating groups to promote key marine safety messages
- Provided support to Marine Teacher NSW with Partnership support for a boat-handling training program run by Menai High School to support a number of high schools in the area
- Consulted with the maritime community on lifejacket rules
- Built stronger partnerships with marine rescue groups to encourage youth participation and provide boating education
- Introduced new marine safety laws with increased penalties for poor or dangerous behaviour
- Increased funding and staff for maritime prosecutions, reducing delays and increasing the proportion of matters heard
- Reviewed NSW Maritime publications to ensure safety messages are clear and well presented
- Reviewed the role of speed in incident statistics on NSW waterway
- Introduced Safe Boating Plans for the Shoalhaven and Clyde Rivers including more than 60 specific actions to improve boating safety and sharing of the waterways
- Expanded online boating safety education and refresher material on NSW Maritime's website.



Sydney New Year's Eve; City of Sydney photograph



Milsons Point commuter wharf, Sydney Harbour; Ethan Rohloff Photography

## SUCCESS IN ... INFRASTRUCTURE

- Provided \$2.3 million for nine new or upgraded boat ramps in Sydney Harbour in the past two years
- Provided \$3.8 million for new or upgraded boat ramps, and other recreational boating facilities, in regional NSW for the past two years
- Created the Better Boating Program and increased total grants funding for public boating facilities, including boat ramps, public jetties and drop-off points by \$10 million to a total of \$25 million over 5 years
- Worked to deliver major new maritime infrastructure at Rozelle Bay, including large boat repairs and dry boat storage facilities
- Worked with the boating community and local government to identify and fund new locations for boat ramps
- Reached agreement with disabled sailing groups for reuse of Legacy Marina in Rushcutters Bay
- Established the Maritime Property Planning Forum to discuss planning issues for waterfront stakeholders
- Reduced red tape and delays in planning approvals through changes to the Applications for Construction process and improving the Permission to Lodge process
- Collaborated with the owners of recreational boating facilities to identify future demand and priorities of works
- Developed and implemented a legal framework for Boatshare schemes, to encourage their continued operation in NSW waters

- Supported the establishment of Sydney Harbour's largest dry storage facility, in Rozelle Bay
- Introduced a Commercial Lease Policy to encourage maritime investment and improve certainty and transparency for industry
- Supported design standards for commercial and domestic facilities to encourage disabled access to the waterways
- Delivered rental incentives for refuelling points at commercial marinas through the NSW Maritime Commercial Lease Policy
- Required new or expanded marina and dry storage facilities to incorporate pumpout facilities for berthed vessels in designs
- Maintained 24-hour a day free pumpout services at Blackwattle Bay and King Street Wharf
- Provided temporary Superyacht berthing at Campbell's Cove and Garden Island
- Investigated suitable locations for additional Superyacht berthing near the Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Commenced the process of issuing standardised domestic leases
- Completed a statewide boat storage study to indicate future supply and demand, and trailer boat launching facilities and provided copies to all local councils in NSW
- Provided comments on the Sydney Regional Environment Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 in relation to berthing and mooring facilities
- Removed the need to re-assess waterfront developments under the *Maritime Services Act, 1935*
- Increased courtesy mooring numbers
- Introduced an online services and facilities locator map, to allow the boating community to plan and prepare for boating activity, especially when going to unfamiliar areas.





## SUCCESS IN ... ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Maintained harbour cleaning services to remove gross pollutants, with 1,600 m<sup>3</sup> of rubbish removed from the Harbour since January 2008
- Introduced new penalties for creating excessive wash, with fines up to \$5,500 per offence
- As part of an ongoing trial, installed a number of seagrass friendly moorings in Pittwater, Brisbane Water, Port Hacking and Botany Bay
- Included anti-wash messages in community education campaigns
- Encouraged dairy farmers bordering inland waterways to fence stock off from riverbanks to reduce erosion
- Set up a project group on the south arm of the Clarence River, supporting foreshore planting to stabilise river banks
- Supported a three year trial of on-board grey water treatment technology by Murray River houseboat operators
- Reviewed no-wake zones on inland waterways including the Clyde and Shoalhaven Rivers, to reduce the impact of wake in erosion-prone watercourses
- Developed a scientific assessment tool to analyse the impact of wash at specific locations and helped determine local responses
- Worked with other jurisdictions on the development of an Australian Standard for on-board grey-water treatment systems
- Encouraged local councils to fit gross pollutant traps on storm-water drains bordering major waterways and harbours
- Worked with Catchment Management Authorities to secure funding for additional seagrass-friendly moorings in Pittwater and Port Stephens.



## SUCCESS IN ... PROSPERITY

- Streamlined processes to enhance commercial focus and project management, domestic lessee support and administration
- Introduced concessional rentals for community and volunteer groups leasing NSW Maritime land
- Reduced red tape and duplication in land owner's consent applications, reducing average processing time
- Developed transparent and consistent policy approaches for small and emerging boating industries including Boatshare, waterskiing and multi-deck hire-and-drive houseboats
- Updated marine safety regulations to reduce red tape for general boating activities
- Developed new procedures so that General Purpose Hand endorsements can be issued on the spot at any NSW Maritime office
- Streamlined systems and introduced additional Customer Service Officers to reduce the processing time needed to issue crewing certificates
- Formed a dedicated survey team to reduce red tape, for example for stability submissions
- Introduced an electronic booking system and online advice for survey checks and requirements

- Published a financial summary in the annual report and provided details of activities supported by boating fees in the brochure “Your Boating Fees at Work”
- Introduced the option to choose private construction certification for maritime structures
- Maintained the Maritime Ministerial Advisory Council as a key source of advice on developing maritime policy issues
- Maintained support for the Recreational Vessels Advisory Group, the Commercial Vessels Advisory Group, and the Boat Builders Group
- Maintained an active representation on the National Marine Safety Committee and Australian Maritime Group
- Convened a Maritime Forum of key stakeholders and community organisations in 2008
- Developed a Builders Group to provide a forum for the resolution of design, construction and survey concerns
- Published online advice for builders about changes to survey to assist them to meet new requirements.
- Introduced 20-year leases for domestic lessees, with new policies on removals and existing use rights to enhance security of tenure
- Adopted a Commercial Lease Policy with a focus on long-term leases for maritime industrial and commercial activities
- Improved planning outcomes by streamlining procedures and increasing consistency within the strict controls of NSW planning law
- Produced an authority-wide vision statement and revised the Corporate Plan to reflect the key theme of “Serving our Boating Community”
- Streamlined domestic leasing arrangements to improve consistency in decision-making, reduced precincts in Sydney Harbour from 120 to 6. Permitted recreational berthing of vessels and standardised rolling averages for rentals
- Adopted a Commercial Lease Policy with a focus on market returns and realities, standardised lease provisions, and improved consistency in outcomes and lease renewal prospects for waterfront commercial operators
- Prepared and published a standard lease template for all NSW Maritime waterfront domestic leases
- Amended planning and leasing policies to standardise requirements, introduce performance indicators and better document progress for assessments and approvals
- Introduced private surveyors for commercial houseboats
- Provided advice on Environmental Planning Instruments whenever they are written or reviewed to ensure the needs of the maritime community are considered
- Reviewed the operation of commercial vessel survey functions as part of the ongoing move towards a single national jurisdiction to ensure surveyed vessels are recognised across the country.

# WHAT NSW MARITIME PLANS TO DO



## SUCCESS IN ... SAFETY

### What you said:

*“More boating officers to monitor and educate on safety ... Safety checks on recreational boaters ... focus on boat ramp safety ... better policing of existing rules ... Clearer communication about on-water roles.”*

### What we plan to do:

- Focus on compliance checks at or near boat ramps and undertake an education campaign for boat ramp users on safe boating behaviour
- Develop new programs to encourage a culture of safe boating in New South Wales
- Publish a plain English guide on the relative responsibilities of the Water Police, Sydney Harbour Control and NSW Maritime.

**What you said:**

*“... Speed ... safety ... a shared user mentality ...”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Continue to monitor the role of speed in accident statistics, with restrictions and navigation warnings as required
- Encourage greater sharing of congested waterways and an appreciation of the needs of other users, via Safe Boating Plans for Sydney Harbour/Parramatta River and for Botany Bay/Georges River.

**What you said:**

*“Support a culture of self-accountability ... new ways to reach boaters who aren’t hearing safety messages.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Continue to conduct targeted safety campaigns, including propeller strike, night safety and basic boating rules
- Build on existing partnerships with marine rescue groups to continue to encourage youth participation and provide boating education.

**What you said:**

*“Review: ... lifejacket requirements for small boats ... aquatic licence conditions, to resolve conflicts between aquatic events and regular commercial operations ... the impact of the 15 knot limit under the Sydney Harbour Bridge.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Work with commercial operators, aquatic licence holders and key stakeholder groups to reduce on-water conflicts and encourage sharing of the waterways
- Undertake a five year review of the effectiveness of the 15 knot speed restriction in the vicinity of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

**What you said:**

*“Provide better maps ... Acknowledge areas with navigation issues.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Review boating maps to determine the effectiveness of including contour lines, seagrass beds and water depths.

**What you said:**

*“Increase the number of boat ramps ... improve boat ramp facilities ... Suitable infrastructure for drop off/pick up ... more public courtesy moorings - not just in Sydney Harbour ... Review design of non-ferry wharves for smaller vessels.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Develop new boat launching facilities in Eden, and casual berthing facilities in Sydney Harbour and coastal NSW.

**What you said:**

*“Improve boat storage in Sydney Harbour.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Encourage boat storage innovations including multiple-vessel pontoons.

**What you said:**

*“Develop new marine precincts ... access to land for maritime industries.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Progress redevelopment of key NSW Maritime owned sites – Ballast Point Wharf, Bank Street Pyrmont, Berry’s Bay, Blackwattle Bay, Balls Head coal loader, Circular Quay, Homebush Bay West, Rozelle Bay maritime precinct and Superyacht Marina, and Walsh Bay – Pier 2/3
- Work with the community to improve passive boating facilities, including a new home for dragon boating on Sydney Harbour and better facilities for hand and wind powered craft
- Reduce red tape and duplication through reviews of requirements for waterfront development, while retaining planning controls.

**What you said:**

*“Improved access to inland waterways during drought ... greater emphasis on freshwater boating.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Review boating restrictions and guides on inland waterways where climate change has resulted in long-term changes to local boating conditions
- Develop a Freshwater Boating Improvement Plan.

**What you said:**

***“Better disabled access.”***

**What we plan to do:**

- Deliver full or assisted disabled access to an additional 28 commuter ferry wharves by 2022
- Work with disability groups to identify future opportunities for disabled access to and along the waterways.

**What you said:**

***“Better access to fuel and pumpout services.”***

**What we plan to do:**

- Work with industry to deliver additional refueling and pumpout points at locations in Sydney Harbour.

**What you said:**

***“Greater Superyacht access, especially the larger yachts that cannot use Rozelle Bay.”***

**What we plan to do:**

- Work with stakeholders to deliver additional Superyacht berthing at locations in central Sydney Harbour
- Oversee the reconfiguration of the Rozelle Bay Superyacht marina to accommodate larger vessels without impacting on navigable waters for passive craft.

**What you said:**

***“Develop a renter/lessee user group.”***

**What we plan to do:**

- Improve direct communication with domestic waterfront lessees, including regular opportunities to provide feedback and make suggestions
- Complete the standardisation of domestic leases, reducing red tape and replacing outdated lease provisions
- Review maritime engineering requirements to better align them with existing Australian Standards.

**What you said:**

*“Consider a 3-5 year plan/program for marinas, boat ramps, non-ferry wharves ... different needs/different users ... Work with all stakeholders to ensure equitable use of facilities ...”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Encourage the use of pontoon facilities to improve access for small recreational craft and provide grants to improve access to wharves for small vessels.

**What you said:**

*“More courtesy moorings outside of Sydney Harbour.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Work with boating groups and State and local agencies to deliver a plan to substantially expand courtesy mooring numbers.

## SUCCESS IN ... ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**What you said:**

*“More seagrass friendly moorings ... boating maps should include seagrass areas.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Encourage continued reductions in costs for seagrass-friendly moorings, to support their continued use in NSW waterways
- Where feasible, mark seagrass beds on NSW Maritime boating maps.

**What you said:**

*“Every boat should manage its own waste ... agreed grey and black water treatment standards.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Amend the Marine Pollution Regulation to allow certain commercial vessels to use on-board grey-water treatment systems on inland waterways.

**What you said:**

*“Develop plans on climate change ... reduce green house emissions from boating.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Work with the Department of Environment and Climate Change on plans to address the impact of climate change on boating in NSW.

## SUCCESS IN ... PROSPERITY

**What you said:**

*“Long-term certainty, especially for leases ... more commercial approach ... concessional leasing arrangements for community, volunteer organisations ...”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Ensure that maritime community needs are incorporated into State, regional and local planning instruments.

**What you said:**

*“Improve stakeholder engagement with NSW Maritime ... give the community a say in decisions.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Convene the third Maritime Forum of key stakeholders and community organisations
- Implement a formal complaint handling system to ensure customer and stakeholder concerns are recorded and acted upon.

**What you said:**

*“Improve consistency and transparency and reduce red tape (further) ... streamline bureaucracy ... plain English documentation and publications.”*

**What we plan to do:**

- Continue to review the operation of commercial vessel survey functions with regard for interstate and international models
- Develop a Code of Conduct for wakeboarding to ensure continued viability of the sport while reducing potential impacts on other boaters
- Introduce new commercial vessels regulations to streamline vessel operation rules and requirements.

**What you said:**

***“Best practice in crewing requirements ... a single set of national regulations...  
Remove unnecessary delays ... Efficient certification process.”***

**What we plan to do:**

- Work with State and Commonwealth Governments on opportunities to standardise crewing qualifications, survey standards and variations in marine regulations and requirements
- Continue to support a National Standard for commercial crewing qualifications
- Review NSW Maritime’s requirements for commercial qualifications by 2011.

**What you said:**

***“Support concept of private surveyors ... user-friendly survey system ... national uniformity for boat building.”***

**What we plan to do:**

- Work with government agencies to improve opportunities for boat building in NSW, and review commercial vessel survey requirements to ensure best practice and encourage a continued growth in commercial vessels operations
- Introduce private surveyors for low-risk commercial craft
- Continue to publish advice online for builders about changes to survey to assist them to meet new requirements.

**What you said:**

***“Raise the profile of what recreational boaters can do for the community and the economy ... More transparency for where recreational income and expenses are going.”***

**What we plan to do:**

- Work with all levels of government to ensure the economic and social returns from boating are considered during planning and economic decision-making.



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