

# NSW MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS FORUM PROGRESS REPORT 2009



In November 2008, the Minister for Ports and Waterways Joe Tripodi MP convened the second biennial Maritime Forum of more than 100 maritime community leaders, to plan for the future of recreational and commercial boating and marine infrastructure in NSW.

The Forums included commercial operators, boating groups, maritime businesses, waterfront lessees and recreational boaters.

Participants were invited to outline how they would measure “success” in the four key areas of safety, infrastructure, environmental protection and prosperity, and also suggest actions to encourage the continued growth of boating in NSW.



# SUCCESS IN... SAFETY

## What you said:

**“A combined Volunteer Marine Rescue ... amalgamate volunteers.”**

## What we have done

- Commissioned a report into amalgamation of volunteer marine rescue services, to report to the Minister in late 2008
- Adopted the findings of an independent report recommending the amalgamation of volunteer marine rescue groups, and approved an additional \$3 million to support the establishment of the new marine rescue organisation.

## What we plan to do

- Assist volunteer groups in finalising the delivery of Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW, including an additional \$3 million in funding for a statewide body
- Build stronger partnerships with marine rescue groups to encourage youth participation and provide boating education.



## 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 have done

- 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, effective August 2008
- Further increased night patrols on Sydney Harbour and implemented a zero tolerance approach to defective vessel lighting
- 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.

## 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:**

**“Recreational boaters knowing the rules of the ‘road’... better education on wash... an online boating refresher course... a practical licensing course.”**

### **What we have done**

- Ongoing education campaigns on skipper responsibilities. A review of NSW Maritime publications to ensure safety messages are clear and well presented
- Developed a 3-year plan for boating education campaigns with targeted messages on speed, lighting, cold water safety, equipment handling, alcohol and skipper responsibilities
- Introduced a passenger information sticker which outlines passenger rights and responsibilities.

### **What we plan to do**

- Introduce a compulsory practical component for licence testing, including a logbook of practical competencies to be completed before a boat licence is issued, from 2009
- Increase funding for boating education to \$3 million over three years, from 2009
- Work with volunteer marine rescue organisations and the Marine Teachers Association to expand boating education in schools and the wider community by July 2009
- Maintain and expand online boating safety education and refresher material on the NSW Maritime website.

### **What you said:**

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

### **What we have done**

- Introduced a 15 knot speed limit in the vicinity of the Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Reviewed the role of speed in incident statistics on NSW waterways
- Increased NSW Maritime’s presence on Sydney Harbour and introduced new penalties for unsafe behaviour, speeding and creating excessive wash
- 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.

## 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:

**“Expand the successful ‘You’re the skipper, you’re responsible’ campaign... support a culture of self-accountability ... new ways to reach boaters who aren’t hearing safety messages.”**

## What we have done

- Increased funding for key safety campaigns including “You’re the skipper, you’re responsible”
- Partnered with Crimestoppers and boating groups to promote key marine safety messages
- Developed a 3-year, \$3 million Communications Plan with a focus on skipper responsibility, targeted at specific demographics and using both mainstream and emerging media.



## What we plan to do

- Enhance the NSW Maritime “webcam” network with a system of “boating alerts” providing safety warnings when weather conditions are poor
- Extend the “You’re the skipper, you’re responsible” campaign into other jurisdictions and provide boating groups including clubs and volunteer organisations with additional materials to promote key safety themes
- Conduct targeted safety campaigns, including propeller strike, night safety and basic boating rules.

## 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

- Consult with the maritime community on lifejacket rules within the framework of State and international maritime requirements
- 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
- Introduce an online “trip planner”, to allow the boating community to map their voyage and receive updated weather and navigational advice.

# SUCCESS IN... INFRASTRUCTURE

## What you said:

**“Open up Boatshare.”**

## What we have done

- Developed and implemented a legal framework for Boatshare schemes, to encourage their continued operation in NSW waters.

## 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 have done

- 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 same period
- 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.

## What we plan to do

- Work with the boating community and local government to identify and fund new locations for boat ramps
- Prepare and publish a boat storage study including trailer boat launching facilities
- 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 have done

- Supported establishment of Sydney Harbour’s largest dry storage facility, in Rozelle Bay.

## What we plan to do

- Advocate for continued growth in berthing and mooring facilities within existing and future planning controls
- Update boat storage guidelines for Sydney Harbour to support new and improved storage facilities
- By July 2009, conduct a statewide boat storage study to indicate future supply and demand
- Encourage boat storage innovations including multiple-vessel pontoons.



### **What you said:**

**“Improve availability of skilled people in maritime industries.”**

### **What we plan to do**

- Work with TAFE, boating education providers and government to streamline qualification systems and improve the system of mutual recognition for interstate qualifications
- Work to increase public awareness of the value of maritime careers, including a campaign to encourage public interest in retraining for the maritime industry.

### **What you said:**

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

### **What we have done**

- Worked to deliver major new maritime infrastructure at Rozelle Bay, including large boat repairs and dry boat storage facilities
- Introduced a Commercial Lease Policy to encourage maritime investment and improve certainty and transparency for industry.

### **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, Elizabeth Bay, Homebush Bay West, Rozelle Bay maritime precinct and Superyacht Marina, Rose Bay seaplane base 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 by mid-2010.

### **What you said:**

**“Better disabled access.”**

### **What we have done**

- Reached agreement with disabled sailing groups for reuse of Legacy Marina in Rushcutters Bay
- Supported design standards for commercial and domestic facilities to encourage disabled access to the waterways.

### **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 have done**

- 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.

### **What we plan to do**

- Work with industry to deliver additional refuelling and pumpout points at Ballast Point and other locations in Sydney Harbour.

### **What you said:**

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

### **What we have done**

- Provided temporary Superyacht berthing at Campbell’s Cove and Garden Island
- Investigated suitable locations for additional Superyacht berthing near the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

### **What we plan to do**

- Work with stakeholders to deliver additional Superyacht berthing at locations in central Sydney Harbour
- Reconfigure 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 have done

- Established the Maritime Property Forum to discuss planning and leasing issues for waterfront tenancies
- Reduced red tape and delays in planning approvals through changes to the Applications for Construction process, reforming the Maritime Planning Branch and improving the Permission to Lodge process
- Commenced the process of issuing standardised domestic leases.

## 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 have done**

- Collaborated with the owners of recreational boating facilities to identify future demand and priorities of works.

### **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:**

**Improve planning infrastructure and facilities... work with all stakeholders to ensure equitable use of facilities/access to waterways... 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 by 2010.

# SUCCESS IN... ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## What you said:

**“Eliminate wash... deal with the problems of wake... encourage foreshore regeneration.”**

## What we have done

- Reviewed no-wake zones on inland waterways including the Clyde and Shoalhaven Rivers, to reduce the impact of wake in erosion-prone watercourses
- 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
- Included anti-wash messages in community education campaigns
- Introduced new penalties for creating excessive wash, with fines up to \$5,500 per offence
- Developed a scientific assessment tool to analyse the impact of wash at specific locations and help determine local responses.



## What you said:

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

## What we have done

- As part of an ongoing trial, installed a number of seagrass friendly moorings in Pittwater, Brisbane Water, Port Hacking and Botany Bay.

## What we plan to do

- Work with Catchment Management Authorities to secure funding for up to 20 additional seagrass-friendly moorings in Pittwater and Port Stephens
- 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 have done**

- Developed a draft Australian Standard for onboard grey water treatment technology
- Supported a three year trail of onboard grey water treatment technology by Murray River houseboat operators.

### **What we plan to do**

- Finalise and adopt an Australian Standard for on-board waste treatment.

### **What you said:**

**“Consider which stormwater drains produce most rubbish and work with councils to fit gross pollutant traps... develop plans on climate change... reduce green house emissions from boating.”**

### **What we have done**

- Maintained harbour cleaning services to remove gross pollutants, with 3800 cubic metres of rubbish removed from the Harbour since January 2008
- Encouraged local councils to fit gross pollutant traps on stormwater drains bordering major waterways and harbours.

### **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 have done

- 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
- Restructured the Maritime Property Division to enhance commercial focus and project management, domestic lessee support and administration
- Improved planning outcomes by streamlining procedures and increasing consistency within the strict controls of NSW planning law
- Introduced concessional rentals for community and volunteer groups leasing NSW Maritime land.

## What we plan to do

- Ensure that maritime community needs are incorporated into State, regional and local planning instruments
- Use existing planning functions to deliver improved opportunities for maritime investment and the retention of a vibrant recreational and commercial boating sector in NSW.

## What you said:

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

## What we have done

- Maintained the Ministerial Maritime Advisory Committee as a key source of advice on developing maritime policy issues
- Established a Maritime Property Forum to address issues raised by domestic and commercial lessees, and 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 biennial Maritime Forum of key stakeholders and community organisations in 2008
- Produced an authority-wide vision statement and revised corporate plan reflecting the key theme of “Serving our Boating Community”.

### **What we plan to do**

- Convene the third Maritime Forum of key stakeholders and community organisations in 2010
- 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 have done

- Reduced red tape and duplication in land owner’s consent applications, reducing average processing time
- 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 with timelines used by the State Debt Recovery Office
- 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
- 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
- Amended planning and leasing policies to standardise requirements, introduce performance indicators and better document progress for assessments and approvals.

## What we plan to do

- 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
- Review and update the Sydney Harbour Regional Environmental Plan
- Introduce new commercial vessels regulations in October 2009, to streamline vessel operation rules and requirements
- Introduce private construction certification for maritime structures, from 2009.

### What you said:

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

### What we have done

- 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.

### 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 have done**

- Developed a Builders Group to provide a forum for the resolution of design, construction and survey concerns
- 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.

### **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 and houseboats, from 2009
- 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 have done**

- 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”.

## 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.

## What you said:

**“Collect information on where boats are kept... sharing of current statistics and information with the industry and public.”**

## What we plan to do

- Publish a state-wide Boat Storage Study which will quantify supply and demand for boating facilities
- Routinely publish available boating statistics and research data on NSW Maritime’s website.





New South Wales Government

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