



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy

## FAQ #2 - SAFE & SUSTAINABLE BOATING IN OUR MARINE ESTATE

The Marine Estate Management Authority (the Authority) has released a Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy (draft Strategy), setting out the proposed approach to manage the statewide priority threats to the marine estate.

This fact sheet outlines how the draft Strategy intends to support boating and boating infrastructure in our NSW marine estate. We welcome your feedback on this draft Strategy.

### WHY IS THE DRAFT STRATEGY NEEDED?

The marine estate includes some of NSW's most valued assets – its coastline, estuaries and marine waters. It provides a range of environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits to the NSW community.

The Strategy is a requirement of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*. It must set out the vision and priorities for management of the marine estate.

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**The vision for the marine estate is a healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.**

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The draft Strategy proposes eight management initiatives to address priority and cumulative threats to the marine estate over the next decade in order to deliver on the vision for the marine estate.

### WHY IS BOATING IMPORTANT?

An estimated 1.8 million people use the NSW marine estate for boating each year for a variety of reasons – for example, to socialise, fish, enjoy marine biodiversity or to earn a living.

There are approximately 13,000 people employed in the NSW boating industry and up to \$2 billion of direct revenue is generated and \$1.38 billion in indirect spending has been estimated as a result of recreational boating activities.

The benefits from recreational boating are reliant on adequate waterways infrastructure and boat storage facilities to support the range of boating activities. The use of commercial vessels and shipping is critical to passenger transport, tourism, freight and trade.

### WHY IS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE 7 – ENABLING SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE BOATING NEEDED?

The statewide Threat and Risk Assessment (statewide TARA) identified statewide priority threats (i.e. deemed a moderate or high risk level across the three regions – northern, central and southern) to the environment associated with boating and boating infrastructure, as well as threats to the social cultural and economic benefits of boat based activities.

Boating and boating infrastructure in estuaries is identified as a high risk threat to seagrass due to physical disturbance of endangered *Posidonia* seagrass habitat as well as waterway pollution related impacts.

Vessel-based activities, including boating are identified as contributing to the cumulative threat to marine wildlife. Vessel-based activities in NSW are important to the community, but the noise and disturbance of vessels can impact the ability of animals to communicate, navigate and hunt. Noise also impacts wildlife breeding, foraging, resting, animal health and can displace animals from their habitat.

Limited or lack of waterway access to infrastructure is identified as a moderate social and economic threat and this could impact upon the ability of boaters to participate and enjoy a range of activities in the marine estate.

## HOW WILL THE DRAFT STRATEGY IMPROVE BOATING?

Management initiative 7 aims to *balance protection of coastal and marine habitat and threatened species with access and safe and sustainable boating.*

Actions specific to boating that aim to address environmental threats includes:

- continuing the Moorings Review and seeking solutions for mooring demand while reducing the threat of physical disturbance to endangered *Posidonia* seagrass populations
- managing boat based contamination through the Australian Maritime Safety Authority national framework
- implementing a boating education program to address water pollution from recreational vessel cleaning

- improving awareness of threats to wildlife and reducing impacts of boating on wildlife disturbance through education, social research and compliance planning.

Actions specific to boating that aim to address social, cultural and economic threats include:

- continuing to improve waterway access to the marine estate through the NSW Boating Now program
- strengthening partner agency coordination across State and local government to identify and deliver waterways infrastructure.



## HAVE YOUR SAY

The Authority is seeking your feedback on the draft Strategy. You can submit your feedback via an electronic submission form on the marine estate reforms website [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au).

More information on the draft Strategy can be found at [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au).

If you have any queries or would like to register for marine estate reform updates you can email us at [contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au).

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