



Transport  
for NSW

Maritime Management Centre

# NSW Boating Statement

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# NSW Boating Statement

## About

The NSW Boating Statement demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to ensure our waterways remain safe and accessible. The NSW Boating Statement is the culmination of an extensive statewide consultation process to inform the development of 11 Regional Boating Plans incorporating each of the major waterways in NSW.

An annual progress report will be prepared to update boating customers and stakeholders on how priority projects and actions are being delivered in the key areas of boating safety, access and storage across each of the 11 Regions.

## Regional boating plans

Throughout 2014 the Maritime Management Centre (MMC) in Transport for NSW, working with the NSW Maritime Division of Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) and the Crown Lands Division of NSW Trade and Investment (Crown Lands), undertook a comprehensive stakeholder engagement program to identify the priority projects and actions throughout the State to improve the NSW boating experience over the next five years.

For the purposes of developing the Regional Boating Plans the State's waterways have been divided into 11 regions based on geography and waterway management as seen below.

The final version of each Regional Boating Plan is available at [maritimemanagement.transport.nsw.gov.au/](http://maritimemanagement.transport.nsw.gov.au/).

## Boating safety

The Government's boating safety program consists of State priority actions identified through analysis of data from complaints, incidents and compliance. This analysis is further informed by stakeholder consultation and feedback obtained through the development of the 11 Regional Boating Plans and stakeholder forums.

Consultation feedback on boating safety issues was generally consistent across the 11 Regions. Boaters were generally satisfied with safety in their local waterway although a number of opportunities were identified to improve user behaviour, signage and navigation aids. These actions will be delivered locally by Roads and Maritime. Regional plans identify a number of local safety initiatives which will also be taken.

The importance of continuing boating safety education and awareness campaigns both at the State and local level was acknowledged across the Regions.

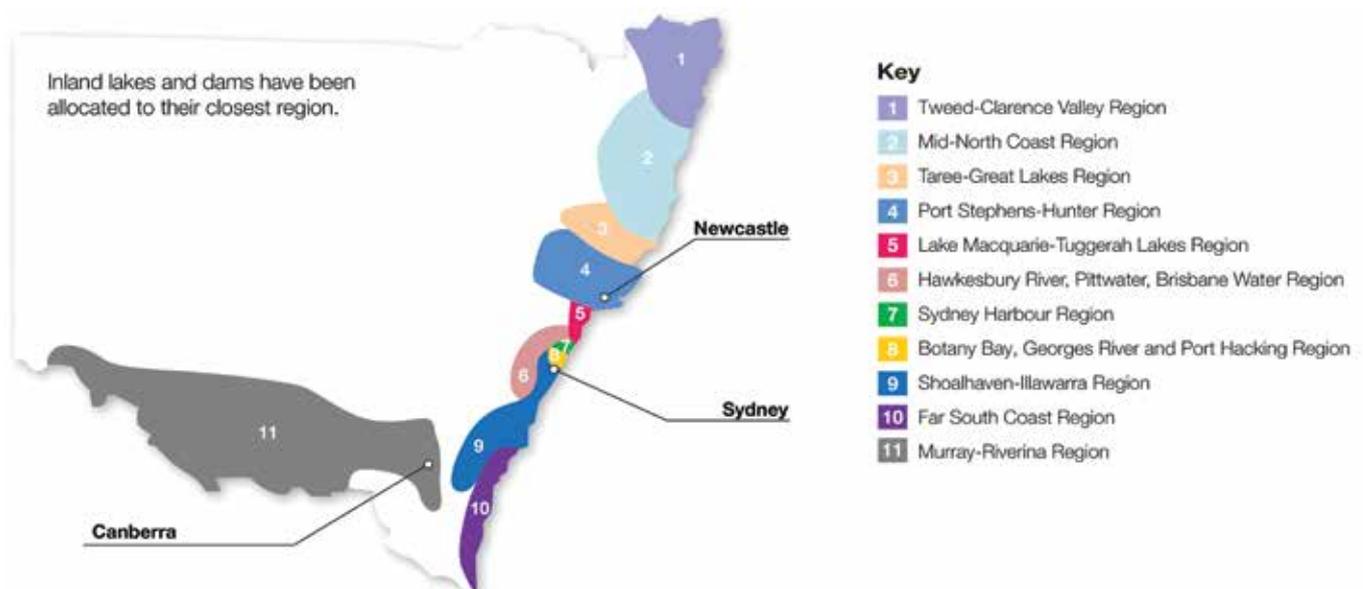
## Priority statewide safety campaign

The promotion of lifejacket wear remains the highest priority action in boating safety for NSW.

A long-term review of incident data for the 10 year period ending 30 June 2012, combined with the annual statistical statements for the past two years, indicates the most common cause of death in boating is the failure to wear a lifejacket in small boats (under 6m).

Nine out of 10 people who drowned when boating did not wear a lifejacket.

A major campaign was initiated in 2012 to break down the perception that lifejackets are big, bulky and uncomfortable.



## NSW Boating Statement

Following two seasons of campaign activity, 2013–14 represented a decrease of 70 per cent in boating fatalities and was the lowest number recorded in the last 20 years.

A review of incidents in 2013–14 revealed that all of the recreational boating fatalities for this period involved a vessel of six metres or less in length, and five of the seven victims were male. These findings mirror the results of previous years and highlight the need for continued education directed at men in small boats.

More work needs to be done to improve boating safety through educating people on the importance of wearing a lifejacket, and on how to avoid other serious injury.

The Lifejacket Wear Initiative comprises the following key activities:

- Advertising campaign
  - A major multi-channel public awareness campaign
- Old4New program
  - A mobile promotional vehicle showcasing modern lifejackets at boat ramps and events
- Lifejacket Loan
  - A program to loan a lifejacket to boaters who fail compliance checks so they can safely return to shore
- Retail Partnership
  - A program to partner with retailers statewide in the promotion of lifejacket wear

These activities operate along-side education and compliance action by Roads and Maritime Boating Safety Officers and Boating Education Officers located throughout the regions. For example, Boating Safety Officers conducted approximately 42,000 vessel safety checks and Boating Education Officers made contact with approximately 11,000 customers. Despite these efforts over 700 penalty notices were still issued for noncompliance with lifejacket wear in 2013–14.

## General boating safety priorities

Specific safety campaigns will reinforce the overall lifejacket wear message, and either work with specific groups, or address other key factors causing injury. These campaigns are also the result of data analysis and stakeholder feedback.

The Maritime Management Centre will continue to support the Safe Boating Education and Communication Strategy for NSW, delivered in partnership with Roads and Maritime. This strategy has the overarching theme:

### ***You're the Skipper – You're Responsible***

This Strategy has the following safety themes:

- Navigate Safely
  - Keep a proper lookout
  - Keep to the right
  - Safe speed/watch your wash
- Plan and Prepare
  - Blue water safety (incl. bar safety)
  - Cold Water
  - Night safety
- Limit Alcohol
  - Reinforce the Go easy on the drink campaign

The general priority boating safety campaigns for NSW are as follows:

- Paddle/ Row Safe covering:
  - Canoes, kayaks and skis
  - Rowing craft
- Dive Safe covering:
  - Spearfishing
  - SCUBA
  - Snorkelling
- Tow Safe covering:
  - Wakeboarding
  - Waterskiing
  - Tow-in surfing

The Strategy is delivered with a range of other community safety partners around the State.

## NSW Boating Now

On 2 August 2014, the Minister for Roads and Freight announced the NSW Boating Now boating infrastructure program consisting of \$14 million per year for the next five years to support the delivery of projects and actions identified in the Regional Boating Plans.

NSW Boating Now represents a major investment in boating infrastructure in NSW, almost tripling the previous \$5 million per year available under the Better Boating Program.

The NSW Boating Now program will be delivered through partnerships with local Councils and other organisations in the boating sector.

### Priority regional projects

\$37.5 million of the funding available under NSW Boating Now has been allocated for the delivery of a set of Priority Regional Projects over the next three years, based on consultations with Councils, sporting clubs and other organisations as part of the Regional Boating Plan process.

A total of 192 Priority Regional Projects have been identified to receive total funding support of approximately \$33.7 million. These projects include upgrades and new infrastructure such as boat ramps, jetties, pontoons, car parks and sewage pump out facilities. Funding support is also provided for studies to further develop identified priority projects. The program aims to deliver all of these projects by December 2017.

Regional Priority Projects will be delivered working in partnership with relevant Councils and other delivery partners in each Region. In some cases it will be more efficient to deliver whole projects, or common components of projects such as pontoons or engineering services, at a statewide or regional level.

Roads and Maritime is developing new guidelines for boat ramps and related facilities drawing on the lessons learned from earlier projects, to provide a guide to engineering and boater requirements for these projects.

Rather than allocate funding to each individual project, each region has been allocated a sum to support the delivery of all the Priority Regional Projects in each Region. The funding allocation for each region is based on initial estimates of projects costs and proposed co-contributions from Councils and other delivery partners for individual projects.

The total allocation for each Region may be subject to variation following further negotiations with Councils to confirm project scope, design, timeframes, funding contributions and the most efficient method of delivery.

The residual \$3.8 million from the \$37.5 million allocated for Priority Regional Projects is allocated as a contingency for any increase in delivery costs that may arise as individual project details are finalised across Regions, and towards support for projects arising from earlier funded studies.

The full list of Priority Regional Projects is in Box 1 and an outline of how projects were identified is in Box 2 on the following pages. It is the expectation that the listed priority projects will be delivered however there is a possibility during the project design, landuse planning and approval stages that new information may result in some priority projects being revisited or altered for valid reasons.

### Major projects

An initial allocation of \$10 million from NSW Boating Now has been set aside to support the development and delivery of major projects that provide benefits to boaters in more than one region. This includes support for pilot projects that provide mainly local benefits but that could also be applied to other regions.

Four categories of Major Projects have been identified through the consultations on the Regional Boating Plans.

**Riverbank erosion** – The impact of boating activity on riverbanks susceptible to erosion was raised as a significant issue by stakeholders in a number of Regions. Maritime Management Centre is currently undertaking consultation with stakeholders on the Tweed, Clarence and Williams Rivers to inform the development of a statewide policy framework for identifying the most effective local management responses, including potential infrastructure solutions (eg armouring banks). Further details about this process are available at [maritimemanagement.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/riverbank-erosion-management](http://maritimemanagement.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/riverbank-erosion-management).

**Slipways** – Maritime Management Centre has commissioned an assessment of slipways available to service recreational and commercial vessels across the State. In discussion with Crown Lands, Maritime Management Centre will identify opportunities to address strategic gaps in this network. The recent closure of Coffs Harbour slipway means that there is no suitable slipway access between Port Macquarie and Yamba. Crown Lands and Maritime Management Centre are working together on a reinvestment package to enable the slipway to be upgraded and operational. Other gaps identified include at Lord Howe Island and on the South Coast between Port Hacking and Ulladulla.

**Boat Storage Strategies and Pilot Projects** – The need to take a more strategic approach to boat storage was identified as a key issue in a number of Regions. Councils in those regions, including Pittwater and Lake Macquarie, have indicated their willingness to work with Maritime Management Centre to develop boat storage strategies for their waterways, and to help plan for the best mix of boat storage options needed to cope with the forecast growth in vessel numbers. In developing the Storage Strategies, consideration will also be given to piloting innovative approaches to on-water boat storage including multiple-mooring systems and public marinas.

**Mooring Minders Campaign** – Comments and complaints about so called “mooring minders”, typically old vessels used to maintain a mooring site/licence, were common across all Regions where storage was identified as a key issue. Similar feedback was received in response to the Moorings Review Issues Paper released for public comment in 2014. Further consultation will take place in 2015 on policy and regulatory reforms arising from the Moorings Review. Funding has been set aside to support the implementation of these reforms as well as potential direct action measures such as establishing a complementary vessel disposal service.

### Boat trailer parking initiatives

Up to \$5 million in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of dedicated off-street boat trailer parking facilities as part of a package of measures announced by the Minister for Roads and Freight on 18 November 2014. The measures are in response to ongoing concerns from communities and Councils about the impact of long term boat trailer parking on local streets.

### Emergency repairs

Following feedback from councils, an allocation of up to \$5 million has been made for emergency repairs to boating infrastructure. The aim of this funding is to speed the delivery of repairs, particularly after storm or flooding events. Where the repairs are covered by insurance, repayment of grants under this element may be sought.

### Second round projects

A mid-term review of the NSW Boating Now program will be undertaken in 2017 to re-allocate any residual funds from the initial allocations set aside for Priority Regional Projects, Major Projects, Boat Trailer Parking Initiatives and Emergency Repairs into a second round of funding for infrastructure projects. This means that at least \$10 million will be available to support the delivery of projects in the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

### Summary of funding available through NSW Boating Now

An average allocation of \$14m a year over five years amounts to \$70m to the program. The key elements of the program are:

<b>Priority Regional Projects</b>	<b>\$37.5m</b>
<b>Major Projects</b>	<b>\$10.0m</b>
<b>Boat trailer initiative</b>	<b>\$ 5.0m</b>
<b>Emergency repair pool</b>	<b>\$ 5.0m</b>
<b>Second round projects</b>	<b>\$10.0m</b>
<b>Program management</b>	<b>\$ 2.5m</b>

### Implementation and delivery

Implementation of Regional Boating Plans actions and initiatives including the Boating Now Infrastructure Program will occur over the next five years. Maritime Management Centre and Roads and Maritime will be working closely with the boating stakeholders, local government, other agencies and delivery partners to implement the boating safety, access and storage initiatives.

The Maritime Advisory Council, Recreational Vessel Advisory Group and Commercial Vessel Advisory Groups will be regularly updated on implementation progress. An annual Regional Boating Plan Progress Report and online information will update boating customers and stakeholders on how priority projects and actions are being delivered across each of the 11 Regions.

## Box 1

# Priority regional projects

## Tweed-Clarence Valley Region

**\$2.81 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Upgrade Lennox Head boat ramp (North Creek Road)
2. Upgrade Brunswick Street Boat Ramp, Ballina
3. Investigate improvements to boating access facilities at Captain Cook Park, Ballina
4. Support for development of project plan for Trawler Harbour, Ballina (Boatharbour Road)
5. Extend pontoon at Fishery Creek Boat Ramp, Ballina
6. New pontoon at Faulks Reserve, West Ballina
7. Investigate access improvements at Emigrant Creek, West Ballina
8. New boat ramp and pontoon at Keith Hall, Richmond River
9. New pontoon at East Wardell Boat Ramp (Byron Street)
10. Condong Boat ramp improvements and toilet facilities, Clarrie Purnell Park
11. Canoe launch facility in Tweed River at Byangum
12. Relocate and upgrade pontoon at Budd Park, Murwillumbah
13. Car park and river bank stability improvements at Murwillumbah boat ramp (Commercial Road)
14. Replace pontoon and provide disabled access at Fingal boat harbour (Lighthouse Parade)
15. Parking upgrade at Terranora Creek boat ramp, Tweed Heads (Kennedy Drive)
16. Boat ramp improvements at Oxley Park, Chinderah
17. Replace timber jetty with pontoon at Tumbulgum
18. Further support for improvements to boating facilities at McLachlan Park, Maclean
19. Upgrade boat ramp and parking at Brushgrove-Cowper (off Wingfield Bridge)
20. New pontoon at Flo Clarke Park, Lawrence
21. Investigate access improvements for the Clarence River Canoe and Kayak Trail
22. Investigate location for sewage pump out in the upper Clarence River
23. Boating access improvements in Yamba
24. Upgrade Iluka jetty (Spencer St)
25. Support development of Master Plan for Brunswick Heads Boat Harbour

\*The total Regional allocation is based on estimated projects costs and the proposed financial contributions from Council and other delivery partners for individual projects. The total Regional allocation may be subject to variation following further negotiations with Councils to confirm project scope, design, timeframes, funding contributions and the most efficient project delivery method. Projects are not listed in any order of priority and are numbered for reference purposes.

### Mid North Coast Region

**\$3.07 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Upgrade Boambee Creek boat ramp,
2. Improved access for non-powered vessels in Woolgoolga Lake
3. Improved access for non-powered vessels in Coffs Creek
4. Improved access for non-powered vessels in Moonee Creek
5. Upgrade Westport Park boat ramp, Port Macquarie
6. Support improved disabled boating access for McInherney Park
7. Investigate recreational boating facility needs on the Hastings River
8. Investigate recreational boating facility needs on the Camden Haven River
9. New pontoon at Rocks Ferry Reserve, Wauchope
10. New public wharf and pontoon at Riverside Park, Kempsey
11. Support further improve ements to the Matty's Flat boat ramp car/trailer park, South West Rocks
12. Upgrade car park and explore options for pontoon at Laggars Point, South West Rocks
13. Reseal boat ramp at Fishermans Reach
14. New pontoon at Jerseyville Boat Ramp
15. Investigate access improvements at Back Creek, South West Rocks
16. Support Stuart Island Boating Facilities Improvements Stage 2, Nambucca Heads
17. Upgrade boat ramp and car park at Shelley Beach, Nambucca Heads
18. Upgrade boat ramp and car park at Gordon Park, Nambucca Heads
19. Improve access for non-powered vessels at Nambucca Heads RSL boat ramp
20. Install pontoons to improve foreshore access at Macksville
21. Upgrade boat ramp and car park at Deep Creek
22. New slipway and boat ramp improvements on Lord Howe Island
23. Upgrade boat ramp at Bowling Alley Point (Chaffey Dam)
24. Copeton Waters Holiday Park boat ramp improvements

## Taree – Great Lakes Region

**\$1.89 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Upgrade boat ramp, parking and amenities at Endeavour Park, Taree
2. Upgrade boat ramp, parking and install pontoon at Bohnock
3. Investigate relocation of boat ramp at Manning Point
4. Investigate relocation of boat ramp at Croki
5. Investigate options to improve boat ramp at Cundletown
6. Upgrade parking and install pontoon at Forster Harbour boat ramp
7. Upgrade boat ramp, improve parking and install pontoon at Tuncurry (Point Road)
8. Replace jetty, install pontoon and improve parking at Pacific Palms Recreation Club
9. Improve boating access at Coomba
10. Construct a passive craft launch area at Browns Creek, Taree
11. Upgrade boat ramp, parking and install passive craft access and storage at Smiths Lake Foreshore

## Port Stephens – Hunter Region

**\$3.68 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Support development of Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest Foreshore Redevelopment Master Plan
2. New public jetty at Ogden Street, Tea Gardens
3. Upgrade wharf and pontoon at Tea Gardens East
4. Dinghy storage and launch facility, Anzac Park, Tea Gardens
5. Upgrade parking and lighting at Allworth boat ramp (Stroud Street)
6. Investigate dinghy storage and launch facilities at Pindimar or Bundbah
7. Investigate options to upgrade facilities at Waterhen Park, Nerong
8. Investigate options for new wharf/jetty at Tahlee
9. Investigate options for boat ramp and jetty at North Arm Cove
10. Major upgrade of boat ramp and associated infrastructure at Lemon Tree Passage
11. Boat ramp improvements and parking upgrade at Karuah
12. Replace baffle boards and sewage pumpout at Longworth Park wharf, Karuah
13. Install pontoon and upgrade parking at Tomago boat ramp
14. Replace wharf at Taylors Beach
15. Upgrade boat ramp at Seaham
16. Replace baffle boards and lower landings at Salamander Bay wharf
17. Upgrade parking and toilets at Stockton North boat ramp
18. Investigate options for improving recreational access to the Hunter River
19. Improve canoe/kayak access from Bridge Reserve, Clarence Town
20. Install jetty and improve amenities at Bridge Reserve boat ramp, Clarence Town
21. Upgrade boat ramp, improve parking and install jetty at Wharf Reserve boat ramp, Clarence Town
22. Investigate options to improve parking and install pontoon at Carrington boat ramp

## Box 1: Priority Regional Projects

### Lake Macquarie – Tuggerah Lakes Region

**\$3.08 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Upgrade parking at Thomas Humphreys Reserve boat ramp, Swansea
2. Upgrade parking at The Esplanade boat ramp, Swansea
3. Investigate upgrade of existing jetty, Valentine (Valentine Crescent)
4. Install pontoon at T.H. Halton Park boat ramp, Croudace Bay
5. Install pontoon at Sunshine Park boat ramp, Sunshine
6. Upgrade parking at Balmoral Reserve boat ramp, Balmoral (Letchworth Pde)
7. Upgrade boat ramp and parking at Lions Park, Toronto
8. Install dinghy storage racks around Lake Macquarie
9. Upgrade boat ramp at Lions Park, Gwandalan
10. Investigate location for new boat ramp on Wyong River, South Tacoma
11. Install pontoon at boat ramp at Kaluah Drive, Chittaway Bay
12. Upgrade parking at Colongara Bay boat ramp, Lake Munmorah
13. Develop new boat ramp and parking at Hot Water Outlet, San Remo

### Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water Region

**\$5.28 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Investigate upgrade to boat ramps, install pontoons and improve parking at Brisbane Water Drive, Koolewong
2. Upgrade boat ramp and improve access at Terrigal Haven
3. Install dinghy storage at key locations throughout the Gosford LGA
4. Non-powered vessel launching facility at Macquarie Park, Windsor
5. Review boat ramp parking and access improvement at Governor Phillip Park, Windsor
6. Investigate boating access improvements for non-powered vessels at Colo Park, Colo
7. Expand existing commuter vessels facility at Church Point
8. Investigate improved commuter vessel facility at Dangar Island
9. Upgrade existing boat ramps, increase parking and install pontoons at Rowland Reserve, Bayview
10. Upgrade Bayview Wharf and install pontoon for boat tie-ups, Bayview
11. Install dinghy storage at Paradise Beach, Clareville
12. Upgrade boat ramp and parking at Wisemans Ferry Boat Ramp
13. Install pontoon at Wisemans Ferry Public Wharf
14. Support development of Master Plan for Brooklyn waterfront
15. Investigate options for improving boating infrastructure in Parsley Bay
16. Install dinghy storage at Parsley Bay
17. Upgrade boat ramp, parking and improve access at Tench Reserve, Penrith
18. Support development of concept designs for additional access points to Nepean River

## Sydney Harbour Region

**\$650,000\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Investigate dinghy storage locations in North Harbour
2. Improve off-water boat storage at Little Manly
3. Provide additional amenities at existing jetties at Pickering Point and Seaforth
4. Investigate opportunities to provide additional access point on the Willoughby side of Middle Harbour
5. Investigate upgrade of boating access facilities at Thompson Street Jetty, Iron Cove
6. Investigate options for improving non-powered vessel access from Bennelong Park, Putney
7. Investigate options to improve non-powered vessel access into Rose Bay
8. Investigate improvement to non-powered vessel access at Milson Park, Kirribilli

## Botany Bay, Georges River and Port Hacking Region

**\$3.50 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Upgrade boat ramp, install pontoon and improve amenities at Oatley Bay
2. Support feasibility study for constructing wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell
3. Investigate options to enhance access at Malabar boat ramp
4. Upgrade jetty at Pleasure Point
5. Upgrade parking and seawall at Davy Robinson Reserve boat ramp, Moorebank
6. Develop Small Craft Low Impact Facility at Old Ferry Road Reserve, Illawong
7. Upgrade boating facilities and investigate options to improve parking at Scylla Bay Reserve, Como
8. Upgrade boat ramp and wharf at Tonkin Park, Cronulla
9. Upgrade boat ramp and install pontoon at Burnum Burnum Sanctuary, Woronora
10. Install pontoon and undertake repairs to boat ramp at Tom Ugly's Bridge, Sylvania
11. Investigate potential for Small Craft Low Impact Facility at Captain Cook Bridge South, Taren Point
12. Upgrade boat ramp and parking and install pontoon at Bonnet Bay (Washington Drive)
13. Install pontoon at Holts Point Place boat ramp, Sylvania Waters
14. Investigate possible locations for sewage pump-out facilities in Botany Bay
15. Investigate opportunities to improve boating access in Botany Bay between Cooks River and Georges River
16. Upgrade lighting and toilets at Kyeemagh boat ramp (Mutch Avenue)
17. Improve access to Prospect Creek at Lansvale Reserve, Lansvale
18. Replace pontoon at Revesby Beach, Revesby
19. Upgrade boat ramp at Connell Road – Oyster Bay

### Shoalhaven – Illawarra Region

**\$4.70 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Expand car/trailer parking and wash down bays at Kiama Harbour boat ramp
2. Upgrade boat ramp and install jetty at Shellharbour Boat Harbour
3. Renew existing jetties on Lake Illawarra (Boonerah Point, Ski-Way Park, Burroo Bay)
4. Upgrade car/trailer parking at Bass Point boat ramp
5. Upgrade Huskisson Wharf including improved recreational access
6. Install pontoon for non-powered vessel launching at Huskisson (Dent Street)
7. Upgrade boat ramp and car/trailer parking and install pontoon at Sanctuary Point boat ramp (Sanctuary Point Road)
8. Install pontoon, upgrade car/trailer parking and approach to boat ramp, and investigate options for an additional ramp at Grey's Beach boat ramp, North Nowra
9. Install pontoon and upgrade car/trailer parking at Woollamia boat ramp
10. Investigate installing new pontoon at Ulladulla Harbour northern boat ramp
11. Upgrade ramp, parking and install pontoon at Lake Conjola following further investigations into preferred site
12. Upgrade ramp, parking and install pontoon at Sussex Inlet following further investigations into preferred site
13. Investigate possible locations for sewage pumpout at Greenwell Point
14. Upgrade Kanahooka boat ramp
15. Install pontoon and upgrade car/trailer parking at Port Kembla boat ramp
16. Investigate access and car/trailer parking improvements for Berkeley Harbour

## Murray – Riverina Region

**\$3.64 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Improve boating facilities at Apex Park, Lake Hume
2. Install solar lighting at Mungabareena Reserve boat ramp, East Albury
3. Install non-powered vessel launching facility at Wonga Wetlands, East Albury
4. Support concept planning to improve the boating experience at the Murray River Riverside Precinct, Albury
5. Upgrade car/trailer parking at Dareton boat ramp
6. Upgrade boat ramp and car/trailer parking at James King Park, Gol Gol
7. Install pontoons at Balranald Caravan Park boat ramp, Balranald
8. Install pontoons at the Kyalite Reserve boat ramp, Kyalite
9. Install pontoons and widen boat ramp at Euston Reserve, Euston
10. Support investigations into improved boating access at Lake Benanee, Euston
11. First stage of improvements to boating access at Horseshoe Lagoon, Moama
12. Improve boating access at Moama Beach, Moama
13. Upgrade boat ramp and car/trailer parking at Picnic Point, Mathoura
14. Bank reinstatement works at Lake Talbot, Narrandera
15. Install new pontoons at Lake Talbot, Narrandera
16. Upgrade access road and install new toilet facility at the Rocky Waterholes boat ramp, Narrandera
17. Investigate designs for new pontoon at Old Brewery Road, Narrandera
18. Upgrade boat ramp and car/trailer parking at Lions Park, Corowa
19. Upgrade boat ramp and car/trailer parking and install pontoon and sewage pump-out at Purtle Park, Mulwala
20. Install pontoons at McLean Beach boat ramp and Lawson Syphon boat ramp, Deniliquin
21. Extend boat ramp at Mannus Lake, Tumbarumba
22. Reconstruct pontoon at Mannus Lake, Tumbarumba
23. Upgrade boat ramp and car/trailer parking at Apex Park, Lake Albert
24. Investigate opportunities to improve boating access in Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene
25. Improve boating access at Willoughby's Beach, Murray Valley Regional Park
26. Way-finding signage to Swift's Creek boat ramp, Mathoura
27. Provide non-powered vessel launching facilities adjacent to Edward River Bridge, Mathoua
28. Review and provide sewage pump-out and mooring facilities for houseboats along the Murray River

### Far South Coast Region

**\$1.48 million\*** in NSW Boating Now funds has been allocated to support the delivery of the following Priority Regional Projects over the next 3 years.

1. Upgrade boat ramp and parking at Mogareeka
2. Upgrade boat ramp, parking and access road at Beauty Point, Wallaga Lake
3. Upgrade jetty at Kianinny Bay boat ramp, Tathra
4. Upgrade boat ramp and install new pontoon at Apex Park, Narooma
5. Upgrade parking at Old Punt Road boat ramp, North Batemans Bay
6. Upgrade ramp and parking at Tomakin (Kingston Place)
7. Provide sewage pumpout at Batemans Bay
8. Improve boating access at Batemans Bay/Clyde River following completion of existing boating infrastructure study

## Box 2

# The steps we took to identify the priority regional projects

## Step 1: Public consultation

Each Regional Boating Plan was developed through a two-stage consultation process. The first stage involved workshops with local Councils and key stakeholder groups as well as an online survey open to all waterway users and members of the general public. Over 1,500 survey responses were received. The process was led by consultants from GHD with expertise in maritime infrastructure. Site visits were also undertaken in each region, supported by Roads and Maritime local operational knowledge to gain a better understanding of local issues and infrastructure priorities.

The results of the first stage informed the development of Consultation Drafts of the Regional Boating Plans for each region. Each Consultation Draft included Key Findings and proposed Actions in the key categories of boating safety, access and storage. The Consultation Drafts also noted a range of issues that were raised during the initial consultation that do not fit neatly into these categories.

The Consultation Drafts concluded by identifying a range of possible projects in support of the proposed

Actions on a location by location basis across each region. The lists of possible projects were based on feedback received from online survey responses, Councils, local sporting clubs and organisations, combined with analysis of available data and literature.

The second stage of consultation involved the release of the 11 Consultation Drafts for public comment from June to September 2014. Maritime Management Centre hosted a total of 22 Public Information Sessions across the 11 Regions to hear local views on the Consultation Drafts. The sessions were attended by an estimated 500 people in total. 480 written submissions were received on the Consultation Drafts, including a number of suggested priority projects put forward by sporting groups, clubs and other organisations.

## Step 2: Input from councils

A further round of meetings was held with Councils to seek their feedback on the Consultation Drafts and their views on which projects should be progressed as a priority, including what contribution Councils could make towards project delivery. Councils were advised that the key criteria to be used in identifying priority projects would be the:

- Extent to which the project delivers a boost to the boating experience in the region
- Level of support from Council
- Deliverability of the project within the next 3 years.

A key message from the regional plan consultations was that the past partnerships with Councils had delivered major improvements to boating infrastructure, but where Councils were unwilling or unable to contribute to costs, this should not stop a priority project going ahead.

## Step 3: Expert review

Across the 11 Regions, over 300 projects were suggested by Councils and other stakeholders as being a priority in their respective region. All of the projects were reviewed against the program criteria with expert and local advice provided by GHD and relevant staff from Roads and Maritime. The extent to which each project improves the boating experience was assessed based on a combination of factors such as the popularity of the site, the location and condition of any nearby facilities and the number of different user groups that would benefit from the project. Estimated costs of projects were reviewed against past experience of the actual costs of similar projects.

## Step 4: Regional allocations

A common view expressed in the consultation feedback was the desire to see revenue raised from local boaters, in the form of boat licence and registration fees, re-invested in improvements to local boating infrastructure. The total funding allocation to support the delivery of Priority Regional Projects in each Region was therefore also determined with a view to the proportion of registered vessels in each region compared to the total number of registered vessels in the State.

The largest variation was in the Sydney Harbour region where relatively few projects have been identified compared to the number of vessels in the region. This reflects the significant investment already made in boating infrastructure in Sydney Harbour under the Better Boating Program. Funding allocations for the Regions are proportionately higher than the number of vessel registrations in those regions which reflects visitation to those areas.

The number of Priority Regional Projects identified in each region is also influenced by the estimated project costs of individual projects and the level of contributions proposed by Councils.

The total Regional allocation is based on estimated projects costs and the proposed financial contributions from Council and other delivery partners for individual projects. The total Regional allocation may be subject to variation following further negotiations with Councils to confirm project scope, design, time frames, funding contributions and the most efficient project delivery method.

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