

Fact Sheet

- Transport for NSW, through the Centre for Maritime Safety (CMS), has established a Maritime Enhanced Enforcement Program (MEEP) in collaboration with NSW Police Marine Area Command (MAC);
- Following a trial last season, CMS is providing funding to MAC to enable the MEEP to be delivered over the boating season;
- The funding delivers alcohol and drug testing equipment, and overtime to deliver more on-water compliance and enforcement hours;
- MEEP is in addition to standard on-water patrols carried out by RMS and MAC;
- This MEEP will run over three consecutive summer boating seasons from December 2017 to April 2020 and will:
 - respond to anti-social, hoon and dangerous behaviour, including in relation to Personal Watercraft (aka 'jetskis');
 - include random alcohol testing and for the first time, drug testing.
 - Metropolitan and regional locations will be targeted to reduce the risk of displacing anti-social behaviour to adjacent areas;
- Local communities view enforcement officers as the greatest deterrent to anti-social behaviour on waterways;
- The rate of PWC involvement in serious injury incidents is almost three times that of recreational boats generally;
- 2017 survey – Over 85% of people were less likely to visit an area if PWC were present; and
- In 2016-17, the Centre for Maritime Safety funded a trial whereby MAC provided an enhanced enforcement role in response to anti-social, hoon and dangerous behaviour on some waterways in the Sydney region. The success of this trial has led to the establishment of an agreement between Transport for NSW and MAC to deliver MEEP.
- The principles of the MEEP are:
 - Enforcement must be highly visible and effectively targeted
 - Enforcement must be additional to baseline levels
 - Operational responsibility rests with the NSW Police
 - Enforcement must focus on key maritime safety-related behaviours, and
 - Enforcement must be integrated with public education campaigns.
- MEEP activities will target behaviours known to contribute to, or associated with, trauma on the waterways of NSW.

- These safety related behaviours are:
 - High priority — Hoon and anti-social behaviour, drink and drug driving.
 - Priority — speeding
 - Other significant behaviours —non-use of lifejackets; failure to comply with maritime safety related traffic regulations.

- On 1 December 2016 the Marine Safety Act 1998 was amended to allow police and other 'authorised officers' the powers to seize, impound and apply for forfeiture of recreational vessels. MAC worked closely with Transport for NSW to implement the powers and create the processes and systems to seize vessels on the spot or the requirement to produce the craft at a nominated location.

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