



ASSOCIATION OF BAYSIDE MUNICIPALITIES

POSITION STATEMENT

The Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM) is calling on Maritime Safety Victoria, Parks Victoria and Water Police to increase education, patrolling and enforcement of personal watercraft (jet skis); and undertake a review of existing boating and swimming zones to improve safety across the Bay.

The ABM represents the ten councils of Port Phillip Bay. Member Councils are acutely aware of the impacts of increased numbers of personal water craft (PWC) on our beaches, particularly during the summer, with issues such as:

- Non-compliance with designated swimming zones.
- Excessive speed, exceeding the 5-knot limit in shared boating and swimming zones.
- Unsafe behaviour poses risks to swimmers and beach-goers, with councils and lifesaving clubs reporting frequent 'near-miss' incidents.
- Interference with marine life such as dolphins, and the inability to issue on-the-spot fines for breaching proximity to wildlife rules.
- Visual amenity with increased numbers of PWCs on the foreshore.

The ABM supports MSV's proposed zone review, including:

- Gathering baseline data over the 2018/19 summer from known hotspots around the Bay to inform zone review
- Implementation of a 'trial zone' project at known hotspots to inform future zone review.
- Comprehensive review of the boating and swimming zones to improve safety across Port Phillip Bay.

The ABM call for greater action, through:

Education

- Targeted education campaign each summer, raising awareness of zones, compliance, patrols and enforcement programs.

Patrolling and enforcement

- Increased patrols over summer
- Targeted patrols at known hotspots around Port Phillip Bay such as Rye and Safety Beach on

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Bayside | Frankston | Greater Geelong | Hobsons Bay | Kingston | Melbourne | Mornington Peninsula | Port Phillip | Queenscliffe | Wyndham

the Mornington Peninsula, along with Elwood, St Kilda, Middle Park, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and Sandridge beaches in the Port Phillip municipality, and Werribee South Boat Ramp. There are ongoing issues and incidents reported at all these beaches by lifesaving volunteers, council officers, boating and beach users.

- Enforcement of existing boating and swimming zone
- Issuing of on-the-spot fines for breaching proximity to wildlife rules

The ABM recognises that effective management of PWCs in Port Phillip Bay requires collaboration and coordination across multiple agencies and organisations. The Association welcomes the opportunity to work with Maritime Safety Victoria, Parks Victoria and Water Police to implement a trial zone project; develop and deliver an effective education and enforcement campaign across the Bay.



Councillor Steve Toms
Frankston City Council
President



Councillor Tim Baxter
Port Phillip City Council
Vice President

On behalf of ABM Member Councils, represented by:

Cr. Steve Toms, Frankston City Council (President)
Cr. Tim Baxter, Port Phillip City Council (Vice President)
Cr. Laurie Evans, Bayside City Council
Cr. Sarah Mansfield, Greater Geelong City Council
Cr. Jonathon Marsden, Hobsons Bay City Council
Cr. Rosemary West, Kingston City Council
Toby Kent, Chief Resilience Officer, Melbourne City Council
Cr. Rosie Clark, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Cr. Tony Francis, Queenscliffe Borough Council
Cr. Heather Marcus, Wyndham City Council

Prepared by: Association of Bayside Municipalities www.abm.org.au
Contact: Jacquie White, Executive Officer Ph. 9667 5536 or jwhite@mav.asn.au

About the Association of Bayside Municipalities

*The ABM represents the ten councils with frontage to Port Phillip Bay.
Together these councils represent 1,287,938 people (22% of Victoria's population).*

ABM councils play an active and integral role in the management and protection the environmental, social and economic values of Port Phillip Bay, with a proud history of working closely with Bay stakeholders through its advocacy and projects. In recent times the ABM has focused on coastal climate adaptation, working towards a whole-of-bay approach to planning for and responding to the impacts of climate change on the coast. The ABM invests in ongoing data analysis, modelling and on ground projects to strengthen knowledge and understanding to inform the protection and management of the environmental, social and economic values of the Bay

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