



23 August 2021

Councillor
Mayor
..... council

Re: Impounding Act Review

Dear Mayor

We are writing to you regarding our collective concern for the **future of trailer boat ownership within your Local Government Area.**

We are concerned that significant changes are being proposed to the Impounding Act and have formally raised our concerns with the Office of Local Government.

As councils have significant leeway in interpreting the Act, we would like to know your position on trailer boat parking in your area.

- Do you intend to introduce stricter controls on how residents are able to park registered, attended (not abandoned) boats in free-parking spaces in your LGA?
- Would the Council consider introducing a permit system to allow residents to park their boats in front of their residences?

A permit system would help to avoid confusion over the definition of an unattended or abandoned boat, assist rangers to identify boats that have been brought into the LGA, and prevent law-abiding, responsible boat-owning residents having to park their trailers in front of someone else's residence in order to comply with the Act.

Trailer boating is a way of life for many families in NSW. The State has an estimated 2 million people who enjoy recreational boating and almost 1 in 5 households has a boat or watercraft. The industry generates \$2.6 billion in revenue and directly employs some 9300 people and more than 300 contractors.

In most cases boats are on trailers that are required to be registered for use on public roads and waterways, yet the legislation is focused on prohibiting them from parking on those public roads.

The Act should better align with work by Transport for NSW which has a project underway to respond to the challenge of derelict or abandoned vessels. Furthermore, Transport for NSW has a program dedicated to supporting infrastructure solutions to boat access and storage. That includes investigating solutions to trailer boat parking in metropolitan areas.

We are concerned the review of the Impounding Act has not:

- Demonstrated any consideration of relevant and appropriate long-term data to support the need to impose a state-wide burden on the majority of people who do the right thing. The review is mainly responding to the poor behaviour of a very small number of people, mainly from the metropolitan areas
- Demonstrated consideration of stakeholder impacts (e.g., including economic and social) or sought to engage key stakeholders directly from the outset;
- Explored alternatives to regulatory measures such as working effectively with the regulator for trailers and boats, or a local resident parking permit for registered boats on registered trailers; and
- Consulted properly with all the key stakeholders impacted.

We look forward to your consideration and urgent response.

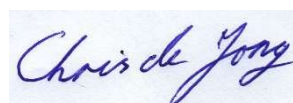
Yours faithfully,



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