

Public Vessel Cleaning Infrastructure for Mooring Licence Compliance

Submitted by: **Boat Owners Association of NSW**

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Submission to: **Maritime Infrastructure “Have Your Say” Consultation – NSW Government**

1. Executive Summary

The Boat Owners Association of NSW calls on Transport for NSW Maritime to address a critical infrastructure gap affecting mooring licence holders across Sydney Harbour and surrounding waterways. Current licence conditions require vessels to be visually suitable and seaworthy, yet there is no public infrastructure available to support basic cleaning and freshwater access. We recommend the establishment of dedicated vessel cleaning berths and invite TfNSW Maritime to identify suitable pilot locations based on environmental, operational, and community criteria.

2. Background and Problem Statement

Mooring licence holders are required to:

- Maintain vessels in a safe and seaworthy condition
- Ensure vessels are visually suitable and aesthetically consistent with the mooring area

Despite these obligations, there are no public facilities where moored vessels can access fresh water for cleaning or tank refills. Marinas typically restrict water access to berth holders, leaving mooring licence holders without a compliant or equitable solution.

This has led to increased enforcement notices and frustration among boat owners who are willing but unable to maintain their vessels due to infrastructure limitations.

3. Proposed Infrastructure Solution

We propose the installation of dedicated public berths where moored vessels can dock temporarily to:

- Wash down hulls and decks using fresh water
- Refill onboard water tanks

These facilities would operate on a user-pays basis and include:

Credit card-activated metered water outlets with tiered pricing (e.g. increased rates after 30 minutes to discourage extended use)

Clear signage outlining permitted activities (e.g. no works, painting, or passenger transfers; only biodegradable, phosphorus-free detergents allowed)

CCTV monitoring with remote hard drive storage to deter pollution and misuse

Environmental warnings and compliance messaging to reinforce responsible use

4. Site Selection Criteria

We recommend that TfNSW Maritime assess potential pilot locations using the following criteria:

- Sheltered conditions to ensure safe docking and minimize environmental impact
- Deep water access suitable for a range of vessel sizes
- Proximity to high mooring density zones to maximize utility and uptake
- Existing foreshore or maritime infrastructure that may support integration and reduce installation costs
- Environmental sensitivity and regulatory feasibility, including minimal disruption to marine habitats and alignment with planning controls

The Association is willing to assist in identifying candidate sites and engaging with local stakeholders to support feasibility assessments.

5. Infrastructure Requirements

Funding would be required for:

- Installation of metered water outlet and plumbing works
- Regulatory signage and environmental messaging
- CCTV system with remote data storage
- Approvals and minor site works to enable floating pontoon access

6. Alignment with Maritime Infrastructure Goals

This proposal supports NSW Maritime's strategic priorities by:

- Enhancing compliance with mooring licence conditions
- Promoting environmentally responsible boating practices
- Improving equitable access to maritime infrastructure
- Reducing visual and environmental degradation of moored vessels