

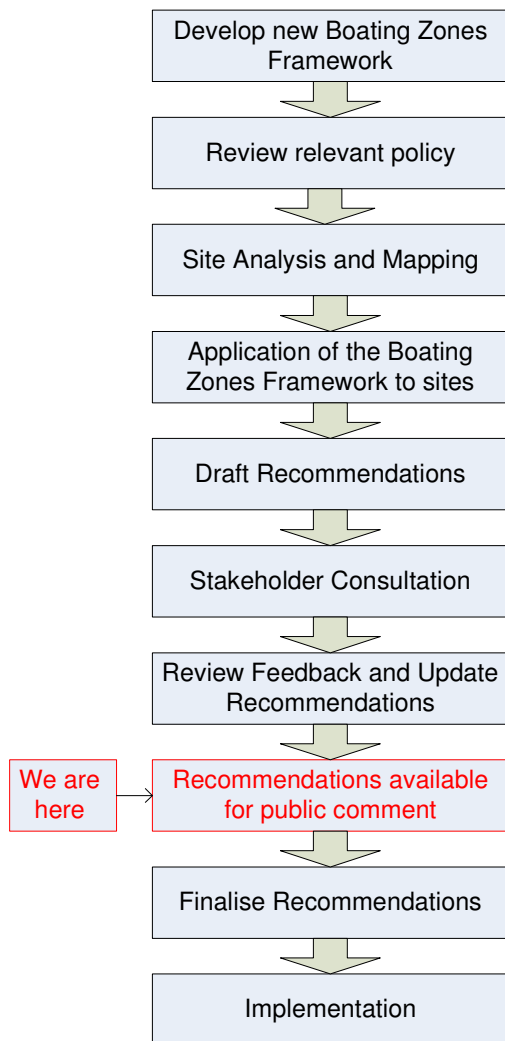
Review of Recreational Boating Zones for Port Phillip & Western Port

Why do Recreational Boating Zones need to be reviewed?

The existing Boating Zones in Port Phillip and Western Port were created in an ad hoc way and do not reflect changing trends in boating activity.

Parks Victoria (PV) as the Local Port Manager of Port Phillip and Western Port, jointly with Marine Safety Victoria (MSV) who oversee the management of recreational boating, have reviewed the existing Boating Zones. This was to determine what zone types are required in each local area around Port Phillip and Western Port to allow safe access and use of the coast and waterways.

This project has broadly followed the following stages.



What are Boating Zones?

Boating Zones are prepared under the *Marine Act 1988* with the primary aim of providing a safe environment for water users. They apply conditions of operation and prohibit incompatible uses for safety reasons.

The principles that have been applied during review of the recommendations are that the Boating Zones should be:

- Safe
- Practical
- Easy to identify
- Easy to comply with and regulate
- Responding to current and anticipated future water uses

What other rules apply?

In addition to these Boating Zone changes, the existing Vessel Operating Rules will remain. These Rules require that all vessels do not exceed 5 knots within:

- 50m of a swimmer
- 50m of another vessel
- 50m of any wharf, jetty, slipway, diving platform or boat ramp
- When passing through a recognised anchorage for small vessel
- 100m of a Divers Flag

These rules take precedence over all other rules in all situations.



What is the New Boating Zones Framework?

The new framework was developed so that boating zones provide for current and likely future water uses. The criteria is used to determine which boating zone (if any) is appropriate.

| Zone | Purpose | Criteria |
|--|---|---|
| 5 Knot Zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Restrict speeds to less than 5 knots ■ Reduce conflict between water users ■ Minimise risk in shallow water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demand from many users |
| Boating Only | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Excludes all water users other than vessels ■ To provide priority for boats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High demand for boat access ■ Presence of boating facilities |
| Water Ski Access Lane | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To provide for the pick-up and drop-off of skiers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High demand from water skiers ■ Suitability of area ■ Water depth ■ Wind and water conditions |
| Kiteboard Operating Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For the safe operation of Kiteboarders in excess of 5 knots ■ This zone does not exclude other users ■ Kiteboarders must still comply with the existing Vessel Operating Rules (listed above) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High demand for Kiteboarding ■ Suitability of area ■ Rigging area available ■ Sufficient beach width ■ Wind, wave and seabed conditions |
| No Boating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To provide opportunities for bathers and the safe passage of vessels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High bather density ■ Close to Life Saving Clubs ■ Beach and seabed conditions ■ Car-parking ■ Public transportation ■ Easy water access |
| No Personal Water Craft (PWC) (Jet Skis) | | |
| No Kiteboards or Sailboards | | |

What are the recommendations?

Some of the general and more significant recommendations that are made as a result of reviewing each local area include:

- The realignment and simplification of zones to provide a more user-friendly arrangement;
- Consistently applying a No Boating Zone in front of Life Saving Clubs to provide increased swimmer safety;
- The introduction of Kiteboard Operating Areas to allow for the safe operation of the increasingly popular sport;
- The removal of 'No Sailboard', 'Sailboards Only', 'No PWC or Sailboards' and 'PWC Only' zones to reflect changing water uses and duplication with other zones; and
- The adjustment of the 5 knot zone between Safety Beach and Blairgowrie from 760m from shore to 500m from shore.

How will the New Zones be implemented?

Recommendations will be finalised following the consideration of community feedback.

Works to update buoys, piles and signage will then commence where the current zones are particularly problematic. Implementation will continue over the next couple of years as weather conditions, materials and contractor availability allows.

As works progress Notices to Mariners will be issued to advise of new zone arrangements.

Have Your Say

You can view the draft boating zone recommendations at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

To comment on a particular map please complete the survey available on the website.

Parks Victoria is inviting comments on the draft boating zone recommendations until 5/12/2008