



CORPORATE POLICY STATEMENT NO. 84

BOATING

December 2025

1. OBJECTIVE

To ensure the safe, effective and efficient operation of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' vessel fleet and the safety of staff, volunteers and contractors while undertaking approved boating operations.

2. SCOPE

This policy statement applies to all boating operations conducted solely by the department or jointly with other agencies or non-government organisations in State and Commonwealth waters, including waters managed by the department, while carrying out the department's functions, using vessels owned or contracted by the department.

3. CONTEXT

The department operates vessels and conducts field-based marine and island management activities including research, monitoring, education and liaison, public participation, surveillance and enforcement in department-managed marine parks and reserves, and other State and Commonwealth waters.

Works programs take place in statewide locations from open offshore waters, sheltered lagoons and estuarine environments to inland waters, rivers and lakes. These operations are often situated in remote, potentially hazardous areas and may require staff to carry out tasks under a wide range of sea and weather conditions.

The department is required to ensure that proper boating procedures, systems and processes are in place to ensure the continuity of a safe and effective boating program. Staff are required to conduct marine operations in accordance with statutory requirements for vessel operation in a manner that minimises risk to human health and safety, the environment and the department. Operational departmental activities associated with boating and other marine operations such as diving, mooring and anchoring are conducted according to applicable legislation and the department's policies, standards, codes and operating guidelines.

The department's marine, coastal and island operational activities are also required to integrate with interagency programs, particularly those of the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Fisheries Division) and the Western Australia Water Police.

4. LEGISLATION

The department carries out boating operations to perform its functions under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987* and other relevant legislation including the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Boating operations in the department will be compliant with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012* and all other State and Commonwealth legislation applicable to marine safety including those Acts, regulations and orders administered by the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure, Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

5. POLICY

The department will:

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| 5.1 | Boating operations | Plan and implement boating operations to ensure the safe operation of vessels; adhere to relevant legislation, policies and standards and quarantine requirements; use vessel crew who are appropriately trained and have the designated essential and specialist competencies, qualifications and skills; ensure staff fitness for work and the protection and wellbeing of boating staff, volunteers and contractors. |
| 5.2 | Vessel survey and procurement | Ensure that departmental vessels meet national standards for domestic commercial vessels, and are classified in a <i>fit for purpose</i> survey category. |
| 5.3 | Adverse weather conditions | Plan and undertake boating operations consistent with meteorological and emergency warnings and media announcements to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, contractors and vessels. |
| 5.4 | Storage, maintenance and handling | Meet the manufacturer's specifications for the safe storage, handling, maintenance and use of fuel, petroleum-based products and other dangerous goods and hazardous materials on vessels. |
| 5.5 | General procedures | Meet all the standards prescribed in the department's Safe Boating Guidelines. Meet the incident reporting requirements in line with the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i> . |
| 5.6 | Working from non-departmental vessels | Ensure that when staff, volunteers and contractors are working from a non-departmental vessel, the master of that vessel has met relevant requirements applicable to the safe operation of that vessel including requesting copies of the current survey certificate of the vessel, the crew's qualifications, current insurance policy and vessel safety induction procedures. |

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| 5.7 | Collaborative operations | Undertake joint boating operations with other Government agencies and non-government organisations in marine reserves as required and in accordance with agreed Guidelines for Collaborative Operational Management of Marine Reserves. |
| 5.8 | Risk management | The department will implement risk management to address physical and psychological hazards associated with boating operations including incident and hazard reporting consistent with the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i> . |

6. STANDARDS

The standards that apply to this policy are prescribed in the department's Safe Boating Guidelines. The Safe Boating Guidelines includes standards related to occupational safety and health, operational limits and requirements, quarantine requirements, vessel procurement and survey requirements, national and international standards, certification and training, collaboration and non-departmental vessels.

7. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The strategies that support, direct and inform the implementation of this policy are provided in the Safe Boating Guidelines.

8. CUSTODIAN

Executive Director Regional and Fire Management Services.

9. PUBLICATION

This policy will be made available on the department's website and intranet.

10. KEY WORDS

Boating; vessels; marine safety; marine operations; interagency programs; standards; weather conditions; storage; communications; crew; volunteers.

11. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no later than five years from the date of approval.

12. APPROVAL

Approved by



Stuart Smith
DIRECTOR GENERAL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 9 December 2025