



## **CORPORATE POLICY STATEMENT NO. 84**

### **BOATING**

December 2015

#### **1. OBJECTIVE**

To ensure the safe, effective and efficient operation of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's 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 state-wide 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, Department of Fisheries and the Western Australia Water Police.

#### 4. LEGISLATION

The department carries out boating operations so as to perform its functions under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and other relevant legislation including the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Boating operations in the department will be compliant with the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*, *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, Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

#### 5. POLICY

The department will:

- |     |                                       |  |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--|
| 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; and ensure 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 so as 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 on vessels.   |
| 5.5 | General procedures                    | Meet all of the standards prescribed in the Boating Code of Practice (formerly the Boating Guidelines).  |
| 5.6 | Working from non-departmental vessels | Ensure that when staff are working from a non-departmental vessel, the master of that vessel has met all the legislative and survey requirements applicable to the safe operation of that vessel.  |
| 5.7 | Collaborative operations              | Undertake joint boating operations with other Government agencies and non-government organisations as required and in accordance with agreed Collaborative Operational Plans.  |

**6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

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

**7. CUSTODIAN**

Director of Regional and Fire Management Services.

**8. PUBLICATION**

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

**9. KEY WORDS**

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

**10. REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed no later than December 2020.

**11. DIRECTOR GENERAL APPROVAL**

Approved by



Jim Sharp  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Effective date: 22 December 2015