

## **Marine Rescue NSW maintaining operations to save lives on the water during COVID-19 emergency**

Marine Rescue NSW has assured the NSW boating community that its volunteers remain on duty, ready to respond to emergencies and help boaters stay safe on the water.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos has thanked the organisation's volunteers for their ongoing commitment to their community service during the continuing COVID-19 crisis.

"As always, our volunteers are selflessly putting the safety of the boating community first, even during this worrying time for us all," he said.

"I know those boaters who are out on the water will be grateful to each and every one of our volunteers reporting for duty."

Commissioner Tannos said it was important that boaters were aware MRNSW was maintaining its vital emergency services at all 44 units on the NSW coastline and on the Alpine Lakes and Murray River at Moama.

**Boaters should continue to Log On and Log off with MRNSW via VHF Channel 16 or the free MarineRescue App.**

**Boaters in trouble on the water can continue to call for help on VHF Ch 16 or on Triple Zero (000).**

Commissioner Tannos said MRNSW had last week introduced a range of preventative measures to protect its volunteers and staff, along with other members of the community, while also ensuring it maintained its life-saving operations.

These include:

- Units are maintaining their regular marine radio operations with core numbers of volunteers.
- As is standard practice in a number of areas, vessel crews are largely operating on an emergency call-out basis, rather than on a standby capacity in their base or boatshed.
- Access to MRNSW facilities by members of the public is restricted to emergency situations and staff are working remotely.
- All public fundraising, community events, unit meetings, recruitment activities and MRNSW training and public education courses have been postponed/cancelled until further notice.
- All personnel are being encouraged to observe social distancing requirements and enhanced hygiene practices.

"These are sensible precautions to help safeguard our people and the community while continuing to serve the boating community," Commissioner Tannos said.

"Like everyone who's adapting to a new way of working right now, we very much look forward to returning to our normal operations once this health crisis ends, whenever that might be."