

APRIL 2017

BOAting News

A CONCISE UPDATE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
BOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC.

THE TOP ISSUES

- **Bays District Precinct project well underway—BOA an active participant**
- **Mooring minders in the news—BOA leads the commentary**
- **Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment submission lodged**
- **Meet your new Committee**
- **Woodford Bay Slipway gets a reprieve—and we're delighted!**
- **Membership renewals coming your way soon**

Bays Precinct Project Underway

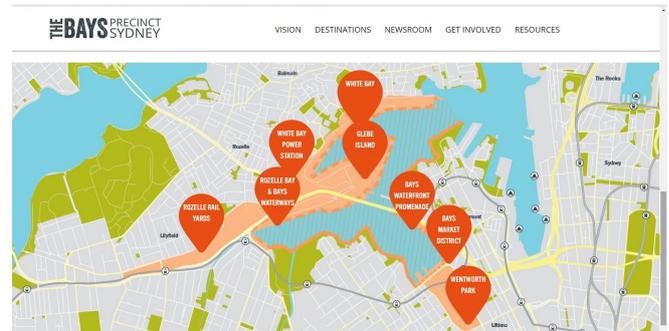
The state government's extensive revamp of the Bays Precinct (which incorporates the Sydney Fish Markets redevelopment) is well underway and the BOA has been involved in the consultations from the outset.

Following the work started by Jeff Richards, BOA Secretary Bruce Dennis has been a regular fixture at the Precinct consultative meetings and consultations. According to Bruce, the

changes have the potential to be either a fabulous filip for the boating community or to impose serious limitations on recreational boat access and amenity.

"The meetings I've been to have been a real eye-opener. Whilst there is

a great deal of good intention and some fantastic new projects, we're going to need to be very vigilant to ensure that the boating public is not squeezed out."



Mooring Minders in the News

The Inner West Courier (Sydney) recently carried a story about abandoned boats and their impact on the marine environment.

The BOA has long railed against "mooring minders" that become permanent, rotting fixtures on the waterways of the state. A straw poll indicated that perhaps 30% of moored

boats are unseaworthy or at the very least in abysmally poor condition.

As journalist Jim O'Rourke said *"And as well as being a blot on one of the world's most beautiful harbours, the neglected boats are taking up scarce moorings that could be used by responsible boat owners."*

Jim interviewed the BOA for the article and we thoroughly agree with his assessment.

We would encourage in the strongest possible terms the RMS to enforce its own rules—the waterways of NSW deserve nothing less.





Whilst we would all agree that the marine environment needs to be well protected, there needs to be balance in all things.

Meet your new Committee

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tue 28 March a new Committee was appointed by the members present.

Membership Secretary

- Joann McKay

Committee Members

- David Lee
- Keith Marriott
- David Miles

Secretary

- Bruce Dennis

Vice President

- Chris De Jong

President & Treasurer

- Andrew McKinnon

We can all be contacted via the secretariat 

Marine Estate Threat Assessment

The BOA has made a submission to the Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment panel, being hosted by the Marine Estate Management Authority.

This is stage 2 of a 5 stage process, whereby the Authority is setting out to identify real and potential risks to the marine environment and to then develop policy to mitigate them.

Whilst we would all agree that the marine environment needs to be well protected, there needs to be balance in all things.

BOA Committee members Keith Marriott & Chris de Jong had a good look at the TARA document and were left with some concerns. Principal amongst these was the possibility that boaters and other users could be severely restricted in their

future use of waterways, even though they were responsible and careful in their environmental interactions.

Our submission is a precursor to more intensive action which will come in the stage 3 & 4 consultations, which is where policy will be developed.

Woodford Bay Slipway Reprieve

Members would be aware that the BOA has relinquished its lease on the slipway at Woodford Bay. Quite simply, we did not have the time nor, most importantly, the expertise to operate the slipway

safely and effectively. However a community-based group called the Kingsford Smith Slipway Association has been involved in very productive discussions with Roads & Maritime Services and

looks to have secured at least interim access to keep the slipway going. BOA Secretary Bruce Dennis is also involved with this group and is quietly optimistic about the future prospects for the slipway.

Membership renewals in the mail

We will shortly be sending you your membership renewal.

We hope you will continue to support the organisation which has your boating interests at heart.

The BOA did go through some lean times in the last year or so, but with a new committee looking to develop a new direction, we are enthusiastic about the future.

A big part of what we do is to represent your interests. If there is an issue that is on your mind, please let us know.

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