

Impending New Marine Safety Regulations

Mangles Bay Fishing Club



The Department of Transport (DoT) will soon announce the launch of the new safety equipment regulations for recreational vessels in WA.

The introduction of the new WA Safety Equipment regulations is a response of a review process that has taken place over a period of years. DoT conducted the review to ensure that WA has a contemporary safety equipment regime that maximises safety for the boating community.

The new key laws affecting recreational vessels, personal watercraft (PWC), tenders and sailing dinghies include:

1. Carriage of an appropriate lifejacket for each person on board a vessel when on the water in WA.
2. Compulsory wearing of a lifejacket (Level 100) when more than 400 metres offshore in unprotected waters for children aged between one and 12 years and for everyone on board when the vessel is less than 4.8 metres.
3. When required, use of a GPS enabled emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB), or GPS enabled personal locator beacon (PLB) phased in over five years.
4. Five-year transition to more reliable VHF and HF radios required when four nautical miles offshore.

Further regulations will follow to capture windsurfers, kiteboards, and paddlecraft, for the moment the current regulations for these craft will continue.

Please visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/safetysafetyequipment and take a look at the FAQs.