



POLICY

Adopted: 14/04/2015

Minute No: 086

Amended:

Minute No:

FILE NO: PSC2011-02312

TITLE: FORESHORE DINGHY STORAGE POLICY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: JOHN MARETICH, CIVIL ASSETS SECTION MANAGER

BACKGROUND

The current approach to managing dinghies stored on public foreshores involves the provision of storage such as dinghy racks and removal on the basis of safety risks to park users, demand for park space during peak seasons and potential damage to foreshores. There is no adopted Council policy position relating to this issue.

A Notice of Motion was tabled at the 26th June, 2012 Ordinary Council Meeting to address the issue of dinghy storage on council foreshore reserves.

The action was prompted due to the number of dinghies and other water vessels being stored on foreshore reserves. The number of dinghies and other water vessels on Council's foreshores reserves are limiting the ability for the residents of Port Stephens and visitors to enjoy our beautiful beaches and waterways. It was noted that a number of reserves throughout the Port Stephens Council area were cluttered with abandoned dinghies, canoes and catamarans. Greater order and management is required to preserve the foreshore reserves for the enjoyment of all.

OBJECTIVE

- 1) To provide a framework to enable a balance between the storage of dinghies and other recreational activities as well as providing a compliance mechanism to manage this balance.

PRINCIPLES

- 1) Dinghy storage on reserves is permissible under a user pay system where income will be allocated to the maintenance, improvement, enforcement and initial signage of foreshore dinghy storage facilities.
- 2) A permit system will enable Council to identify dinghies which have been abandoned on foreshores and subsequently will enable their removal.

POLICY STATEMENT

- 1) For the purpose of this policy:
 - a dinghy is defined as a single or multi-hulled vessel up to a maximum length of 3.0 metres
 - an unauthorised vessel is a vessel not included in the 'Dinghy' definition. An unauthorised vessel would include, but not be limited to, any single or multi-hulled vessel over 3 metres in length, a medium/large trailable vessel, trailer sailer, catamaran, sailboard, jetski, surfboard, work punt, pontoon, sailboat (fitted with mast), rowing skull, inflatable boat, canoe, kayak, and the like.
 - a derelict vessel is a dinghy or other vessel left on public land, which appears to be unseaworthy by the evidence of damage to affect vessel flotation and users safety, and
 - an abandoned vessel is a dinghy or other vessel left on public land, which appears to be un-owned or has no or expired registration.
- 2) Port Stephens Council is committed to providing recreational facilities and services in keeping with Council's vision and key corporate objectives.
- 3) The registration period will be twelve months with renewal occurring during July each year.
- 4) An inspection will be carried out every three months or as required to determine the percentage of dinghies registered.
- 5) Those dinghies not registered will be deemed abandoned and removed from the foreshore.
- 6) Dinghies and unauthorised vessels stored outside of the designated dinghy storage areas are to be removed and impounded by Council authorised officers. These vessels will be held at Council's impound and maybe disposed of in accordance with the Impoundment Act 1993.
- 7) Dinghies without a permit sticker and stored on a dinghy storage rack will also be removed under the Impoundment Act 1993.
- 8) Owners of unregistered vessel that have been removed from the foreshore will have three months to retrieve their vessel. If the vessel has not been claimed after three months, it may be sold by tender.
- 9) Dinghies will be permitted to be stored in any Council managed foreshore reserve. In the Council managed foreshore reserves that have designated storage areas, dinghies must be stored within the storage area. Council managed foreshore reserves with designated storage areas include;
 - Shoal Bay Foreshore Reserve, Shoal Bay
 - Dutchman's Beach, Nelson Bay
 - Corlette Point Park, Corlette
 - Roy Wood Reserve, Corlette
 - Georges Reserve, Salamander Bay
 - Wanda Beach Reserve, Salamander Bay
 - Kangaroo Point Reserve, Soldiers Point
 - Everitt Park, Soldiers Point
 - Sunset Beach, Soldiers Point
 - Taylors Beach Foreshore, Taylors Beach

- Koala Park, Lemon Tree Passage
 - John Parade Foreshore, Lemon Tree Passage
 - Foster park, Tanilba Bay
- 10) Council will review the fee for dinghy storage annually

RELATED POLICIES

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The use of a dinghy is an important method for residents and visitors to enjoy the waterways within the Port Stephens area. The interaction/balance between the general public recreation use of public land and storage of dinghies needs to be managed. This Policy will allow the storage of dinghies to be managed, to ensure equity of access for all.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

This policy will allow Council to fund the maintenance and construction of dinghy storage facilities through the collection of fees.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Dinghy storage will be managed to ensure there is minimal environmental impacts.

RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

- 1) NSW Coastal Policy, 1997
- 2) Coastal Crown Lands Policy, 1991
- 3) Crown Land Foreshore Tenures Policy, 1991
- 4) Local Government Act 1993
- 5) Impoundment Act 1993

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) Community and Recreation Coordinator.

PROCESS OWNER

- 1) Civil Assets Section Manager.

REVIEW DATE

- 1) Every 4 years

