



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA**
Shire

18 March 2021

Mr Gareth Johnston
Director Maritime Safety
Maritime Safety Victoria
PO Box 2392, Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Johnston

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council - Personal Watercraft Advocacy Paper

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) continues to share significant community concerns that have been raised about the increased presence of Personal Watercraft (PWC) in waters on the Mornington Peninsula. The MPSC is seeking a formal response to each item listed in the MPSC Personal Watercraft Advocacy Paper (copy attached), submitted to Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV) in July 2019.

Over the 2018/2019 summer, MPSC publicly exhibited the briefing paper titled 'Personal Watercraft [PWC including Jet skis] Zones and Usage'. This was to capture community sentiment and submissions regarding possible personal watercraft rule changes. Overall, 177 submissions were received which helped to inform the Personal Watercraft Advocacy Paper, adopted by Council on 25 June 2019. This paper categorised the proposed changes into four themes:

1. Greater physical separation of PWC and swimmers.
2. Regulatory changes.
3. Licencing restrictions.
4. Greater education and enforcement.

We understand MSV is working with MPSC regarding theme 4 above with the training of MPSC Community Safety Officers to hold the status of Transport Safety Officers by MSV to aid on-ground enforcement. We acknowledge that MSV have introduced a new safety rule on 16 December 2019 (commonly known as the 'irregular riding' rule). We also acknowledge and support the multi-agency operations over key summer weekends regarding compliance along Mornington Peninsula beaches.

During previous discussions between yourself and MPSC Coastal Planning staff, you advised your office has a suite of proposed PWC reform initiatives that you are reconfirming with Minister for Fishing and Boating, Melissa Horne. These initiatives cover licensing changes, compliance cameras, and enhanced enforcement activities and touch on some of our concerns. We also seek an update on the progress of these initiatives.

Contact the Mornington Peninsula Shire

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Following a formal response we would like to seek a meeting to discuss the matter further, please contact me on 5950 1400 or alternatively, your office may wish to contact Nathan Kearsley, Manager Property and Strategy on 5950 1465.

Yours sincerely

John Baker
CEO – Mornington Peninsula Shire