

20 February 2026



Boating Industry Association

To whom it may concern,

Re. DA26/0046

I am writing on behalf of the Boating Industry Association to inform you of our support for the upgrade of Dolans Bay Marina. Just some of the benefits of this proposal include:

- More efficient use of on-water storage area by adding berths and relinquishing swing moorings;
- Construction of an extension to the pontoon resulting in an additional 44 berthing areas and the relinquishment of 20 moorings;
- Opening up navigation channels compared with previous design;
- Increasing the number of berths which offer greater benefits in safe, convenient access for people of all ages and abilities when compared with swing moorings;
- Adding to the number of berths in recognition that demand has increased over recent years; and
- Stimulating investment in public infrastructure in keeping with Crown Land 2031 strategy to private investment in public infrastructure.

The Boating Industry Association Ltd (BIA) is the peak industry body in Australia representing the interests of boating which includes designers, manufacturers, importers, brokers, insurers, retailers, charters, yacht and boat clubs, marinas, events, surveyors and trades from boat builders to riggers, and more. BIA is an advocate for boaters and the boating lifestyle and supports safe, responsible, and enjoyable boating. BIA has members in all States and Territories.

The BIA reported national industry turnover last year of more than \$10.2 billion with around 35,000 people employed across more than 2,000 businesses. Seventy-five per cent of BIA members are in small family businesses, employing local workers and supporting local communities.

BIA is also now in a collaboration with the Australian Fishing Trade Association due to the close relationship of boating and fishing, and in total the two organisations represent \$21 billion in annual industry turnover and 135,000 people employed.

In Australia, more than 85 per cent of the population live within 50km of the coast, so it is little wonder that almost 1 in 5 households can have a boat or watercraft and

more than 5 million go boating each year. People of all ages, gender and ability participate in boating across paddle, sail and power for leisure and sport.

It should be noted that boating not only delivers economic benefits as well. The award-winning marine biologist, the late Dr Wallace Nichols was internationally renowned for his study into Blue Mind which, through a scientific evidence-based approach, proved getting out on the water in a boat promotes rest, with significant physiological and psychological benefits. He found that with our lives getting increasingly busy and stressed, boating is the perfect way to unwind and relax.

On a boat, feel-good hormones (dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin) go up, while stress (cortisol) goes down.

Dr Nichols said: “Being on a boat is one of the best ways to access the wellness benefits of the water”.

Marinas also provide valuable destinations at the land-water interface but also help ensure vessels are managed in a safe, secure and responsible manner. That spans from safe and secure storage to providing facilities and access to enable boats to be kept ‘fit for purpose’ which means safe and environmentally sound.

BIA would also refer to ‘Crown land 2031 – State Strategic Plan for Crown Land’ where the Minister calls for ‘actively seeking to attract investment’ and states: ‘Our priority is to attract investment by improving security and duration of tenure over Crown Land, so that the organisations that add so much to our communities have a stable base from which to grow and thrive’.

The Strategic Plan goes on to say that ‘a key to delivering on the plan will be to better support’ for our community in a range of assets that include ‘boating and marine assets’.

The NSW Maritime Infrastructure Plan 2019-24 endorsed by two Ministers, one for Transport and one for Lands, captures Port Hacking as part of ‘the 14 strategically significant locations identified in the Plan’. It describes Port Hacking as part of an area that is ‘very popular for recreational boating and fishing’ and that ‘to support current demands and future growth of recreational boaters and to extend tourism in Botany Bay, Georges River and Port Hacking, the following priority infrastructure outcomes have been identified to inform future investment: ‘sufficient on-water and land based storage capacity that meets demand for local recreational vessels in addition to recreational vessels visiting by sea’.

The Infrastructure Plan states: Industry also makes a significant investment in maritime infrastructure that supports local recreational boating, tourism and other commercial opportunities.

In summary, BIA believes there is clear NSW strategic direction and Government support to incentivise public investment in improved public infrastructure to support growth in boating participation. That includes a strategic identification for such outcomes in Port Hacking.

BIA supports new and improved infrastructure that delivers safe, convenient access to people of all ages and abilities, and marinas can help achieve that whilst delivering social, economic and environmental benefits. BIA strongly supports this DA.

BIA would welcome any follow up on this matter, if so, please contact Neil Patchett, General Manager Government & Public Relations on e., neil@bia.org.au or m., 0418 279 465.