

**4 March 2022**

Mr Peter Malinauskas MP  
SA Labor Leader  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
Adelaide SA 5000  
laborleader@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Malinauskas,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Boating Industry Association Ltd to briefly outline our commitment to working with the State Government in support of the social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits of boating.

The Boating Industry Association Ltd (BIA) is the peak industry body in Australia that represents the interests of recreational and light commercial boating which includes: boat manufacturers, importers, brokers, insurers, retailers, charters, yacht and boat clubs, marinas, events, designers, 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.

The boating economy generates significant benefits through employment. In 2021 the industry reported national turnover of \$8.835 billion, directly employed more than 27,630 people with more than 10,000 contractors. In SA, industry revenue is around \$360 million, with 1,200 people employed. Seventy-five per cent are in small, family businesses, employing local workers and supporting local communities.

Across this nation more than 85 per cent of the population live within 50km of the coast. Little wonder almost 1 in 5 households can have a boat or watercraft. People of all ages, gender and ability can participate in boating across paddle, sail and power for leisure and sport.

SA has more than 200,000 people with a licence to drive a powerboat and close to 60,000 registered vessels and a countless number of non-motorised craft (such as small paddle and sail craft) which do not require registration or licensing.

Boating however is more than numbers, it is a way of life for many Australian families with most vessels being family runabouts and small paddle, and sail craft.

Boating has proven to be a standout choice in leisure activity through the pandemic. The combination of no international travel, the staycation phenomenon, flexible work practices and the need to be COVID Safe have seen interest in getting out the water ramp up significantly.

With this in mind, we offer our ongoing collaboration to work with the SA Government on the following:

- safe, responsible and enjoyable boating
- recognition that boating – across paddle, power and sail - is a standout choice of leisure for a considerable number of Australians
- continue to address the need for new and improved access and infrastructure to ensure safe and convenient access for people of all ages and abilities
- industry growth and investment
- boating jobs

Furthermore, we stand ready to support the SA Government progress the review of the River Murray strategy “Whole of Murray” and for government backing of the DockYard project and the overall revitalisation of Port Adelaide’s waterfront precinct, including permanent mooring facilities permanent mooring facilities.

There is an existing and increasing need for new and improved infrastructure for boating in South Australia to accommodate the demand for such facilities, not just now but into the future. The DockYard project, which is forging a partnership between long-established marine industry businesses in the area and further afield, revitalising land that has had an equally long and proud history in the marine industry, has the potential to deliver an excellent outcome for boating and marine manufacturing, service and support into the future.

The BIA particularly commends to you the following project features such as:

- a common user facility for the industry which will benefit the broader business community and boating public;
- The opportunity to:
  - bring a commercial shipbuilding industry back to life in SA
  - delivery critical support for training and jobs
  - creation of a training hub
  - a potential venue for industry events, and
  - deliver overall social, environmental and economic benefits to South Australia.

BIA also recognises that such a precinct, as demonstrated by similar models in Australia and overseas, would not only support jobs but enable current businesses to expand, the opportunities for current and new business to bid on work there, interstate and internationally and the ability to attract businesses and people to migrate or expand into South Australia.

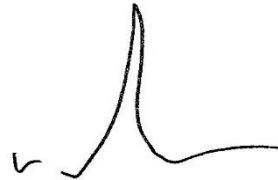
We would welcome an opportunity to meet and discuss the above at your earliest convenience.

Please do not hesitate to contact Neil Patchett, Co General Manager (Policy and Advocacy), e. [neil@bia.org.au](mailto:neil@bia.org.au) or m. 0418 279 465 on any matters related to boating in your State.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line.

**Neil Patchett**  
Co General Manager  
Boating Industry Association Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a sharp peak followed by a horizontal line.

**Nik Parker**  
Co General Manager  
Boating Industry Association Ltd