



Shoreham Foreshore Reserve
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SHOREHAM 3916

Shoreham Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management comment on Parks Victoria Boating & Swimming Zone Review 2016/17

In 2009 Parks Victoria completed a comprehensive two-year review of all boating and swimming zones across Port Phillip and Western Port to determine what zone types were required in each local area around Port Phillip and Western Port to allow safe access and use of the coast and waterways. The review utilised community consultation, a standard set of zones, and criteria for Boating Zones. The review was detailed in the Parks Victoria Boating Zones Review Report delivered by BECA in 2009.

Individual boating and swimming zone users, informal user groups, local governments managing foreshores and Victorian recreation peak bodies have suggested improvements to the existing boating zones.

To propose or amend boating and swimming zone rules, Parks Victoria works with Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV), the state-wide regulator.

Consultation steps include:

- A newspaper public notice of the proposal to request the making of the rule
- 4 weeks public consultation
- Consideration and summary of submissions received during consultation
- A request to MSV to make a new waterway rule, explaining; how the rule will minimise risks, any alternative ways to address the matter; and expected benefits and costs of the proposed rule.

This submission from the Shoreham Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management responds to Parks Victoria community consultation phase of the 2016/17 Review.

HUMAN POWERED PADDLEBOARD AND SWIMMERS

Parks Victoria seeks feedback on allowing human powered paddlecraft to use Vessels Prohibited – (Swimming Only) Zones.

Human powered paddlecraft including Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs), sit on kayaks, canoes, small dinghies, and surf skis are currently not able to be used in Vessels Prohibited – (Swimming Only) Zones.

In the context of a 'boating only' or 'swimming only' zone, a boat is a vessel or craft which is navigable or steerable and is used to travel on water. This includes motor boats, sail boats or yachts,

canoes with oars, Personal Water Crafts (jet skis), kite boards and kayaks. In this context, a water toy such as an inflatable floating device, body board or surf board is not considered a boat.

The implementation of the 2009 Boating Zone recommendations at Shoreham under current definitions would prohibit the use of paddlecraft for almost the entirety of the Shoreham Main beach. This would drastically change the current family based mixed use of the area and disadvantage a large percentage of current users.

Current arrangements work satisfactorily with no reported safety issues.

Shoreham Committee Position:

Whilst not currently applicable at Shoreham the Committee supports allowing human powered paddlecraft to use Vessels Prohibited – (Swimming Only) Zones.

CLARIFYING THE NAMING OF 'SHARED WINDSPORTS ZONES'

Parks Victoria seeks feedback on renaming existing 'Kite Boarding Zones' to 'Shared Windsports Zones'.

Signs, legislation and web information refer to these popular zones in an inconsistent fashion that does not properly recognise consistent use by windsurfers. 'Shared Windsports' is inclusive of kiteboarding and windsurfing and better informs other beach uses that both activities are welcome in the zone.

Parks Victoria state "generally beach conditions for swimming deteriorate (strong cross or onshore winds) as kiteboarding and windsurfing conditions improve. The 'natural' separation has worked well.

Kiteboarders and Windsurfers share the zones provided and different sailing angles enable both groups to use the zone safely and simultaneously.

Kiteboarding Victoria and Windsurfing Victoria support the renaming."

The natural separation occurs at Shoreham with wind surfing activities occurring mostly when conditions deter other users i.e. high winds, waves.

Shoreham Committee Position:

Whilst not currently applicable at Shoreham the Committee has no objection to renaming existing 'Kite Boarding Zones' to 'Shared Windsports Zones'.

PERSONAL WATER CRAFT PROHIBITED ZONES AT CARRUM AND SHOREHAM

Parks Victoria seeks feedback on retaining existing 'Personal Water Craft Prohibited Zones'. These zones are in place north and south of the Patterson River at Carrum in Port Phillip and at Shoreham. The 2009 BECA report detailed replacing the Prohibited Zones with combinations of 'Vessels Prohibited (Swimming Only) Zones' and '5 Knot, within 200m of the shore Zones'.

Currently the zones recommended in the BECA report, and agreed in principle by Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV) have not been implemented. Local community expectations and use in the area by PWC operators reflects the current arrangements. Parks Victoria seeks feedback on maintaining the current approach and not implementing the BECA recommendations.

Historically there has been strong community opposition, if not outrage, to permitting PWC operators at Shoreham. The current prohibition exists as a result of community representations to the Victorian Parliament. Strong community opposition to permitting PWC operators at Shoreham remains.

On the odd occasion a PWC operator presents at the beach the operator is advised by community members of the prohibition and they should not launch the craft.

Shoreham is the only public accessible family friendly beach between Pt Leo and Flinders a distance of approx. 7km. The Beach has a water frontage of approximately 1km with rock formation on either side of the main beach reducing active water frontage to 500m at low tide.

The Beach and carpark is at full capacity in peak periods. The introduction of PWC's at Shoreham will create a safety issue and aggressive behaviour between operators and beach users.

The topography of the Shoreham Reserve creates an amphitheater environment amplifying water craft noise which carries not just to beach users but to surrounding residential areas and the Shoreham camping ground. Anger at PWC operators is profound as the noise adversely impacts the amenity of the area.

Shoreham Committee position

The Committee strongly supports retaining existing 'Personal Water Craft Prohibited Zones' at Shoreham.

The Committee is empowered by Regulation made in Council to make regulations that apply to the Shoreham Foreshore for which it is responsible. That area includes the public beach and boat ramp. By signage erected by Parks Victoria on behalf of the Committee a considerable time ago and which has been continuously maintained, Personal Watercraft are prohibited in the Shoreham Foreshore.

The Shoreham Committee will provide further comment in support of this submission as required.

For and on behalf of the Committee,
Doug Owens
Chairperson
Shoreham Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management