

## SCAM INFORMATION

Fortunately most boat buyers and sellers are genuine however there are some unscrupulous people in the world. Please use common sense. Typically the deal seems "too good to be true"! These types of scams occur on the internet as well as ads in newspapers. We wish to uphold WALA's reputation as a dependable website for buying and selling boats and hope this information helps.

### Selling your boat - Scams that you should beware of:

The bogus boat buyer offers to pay more than the asking price. The buyer will send you a cheque or payment by bank transfer, and request that you pay them the difference. Alternatively, they pay you the asking price and request you pay the "shipping costs". The cheque then bounces or the bank transfer fails and you are out of pocket.

#### **What to do:**

ALWAYS make sure you know who you are talking to and who you are dealing with when selling your boat - request their name, address, email and phone number. Beware of poorly worded emails from 'free' email addresses eg. Yahoo! They often claim to be overseas and wish to buy the boat sight unseen. NEVER send any money back to the "purchaser". We suggest you ignore any correspondence from them. Be careful when responding to any email that requests your personal and financial information.

### Buying a boat - Scams that you should beware of:

Anyone can list a boat for sale on a website or put an ad in the newspaper with a picture of a boat. Unfortunately there are some people who list a boat for sale without ever owning it. When you contact the boat seller, they request that you send some money as a "down payment" so you don't "miss out". Simply put, they take your money and run.

When buying a boat which is listed on WALA, you deal directly with the boat seller. Beware of scammers who tell you that the transaction will be done through WALA. WALA is NOT involved in the transaction between boat buyer and boat seller and we will NEVER send you an invoice to complete the transaction.

#### **What to do:**

Make certain that the boat seller is real. Request the seller's name, address, email and phone number. Also request proof of ownership of the boat for sale. Sellers should be able to produce evidence of Title, Registration, and Hull Identification Number (HIN) on more recently manufactured boats. Be careful if a seller is offering free shipping or relocation. Relocating a boat any distance can

be costly and should be reflected in the asking price. Be careful when responding to any email that requests your personal and financial information

For more information relating to scams, visit [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au), an independent website run by the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC).