



Transport for NSW

Leave only water in your wake

New responsibilities for
recreational boaters



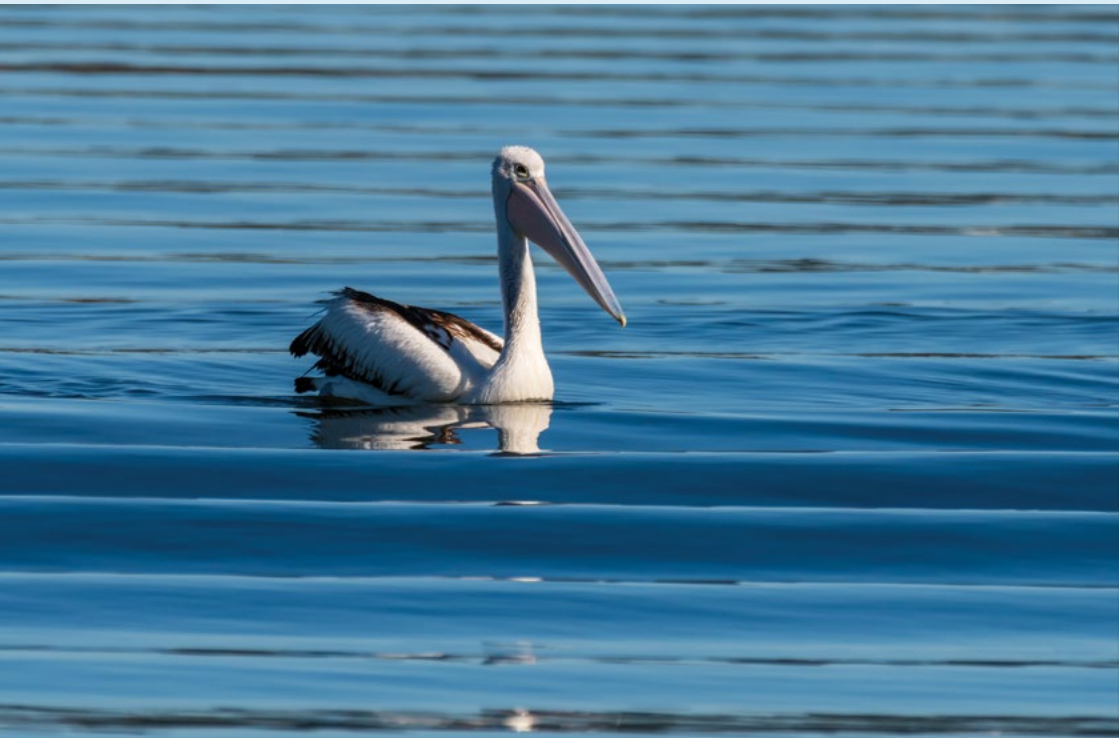
Polluting our waterways is against the law. It's important to understand the rules around polluting our waterways.

There are four main types of pollution from boats:

- Anything not normally found in the water should be treated as garbage. Food, domestic and operational waste, all plastics, cargo residues, incinerator ashes, cooking oil, fishing gear, and animal carcasses generated during the normal operation of a vessel are all garbage.
- Sewage waste from boats
- Petrol or oil leaking from an outboard or inboard motor
- Chemicals and other contaminants from the cleaning and maintaining of your boat

Since March 2021, the *Marine Pollution Act 2012 (MPA)* includes recreational boats and now applies to all navigable waters in NSW—from inland waters to three nautical miles offshore. Under this legislation, boat owners, masters, skippers, crew and service technicians can each be charged for a pollution offence up to \$5,000 if it is found that their actions caused pollutants to be discharged into state waters.

Following best environmental practices when using and maintaining your boat will go a long way to preserving the aquatic environment for future generations.



Here are some suggestions on how to enjoy the experience of boating while helping to safeguard the quality of our fragile environment, how to enjoy boating, and keep waterways clean:

- Make sure your boat and its engines are in good working order – regularly check seals, gaskets, hoses and connections for leaks and drips. This will help prevent oily waste discharges from automatic bilge pumps
- Take care when filling your fuel tank to avoid spillage into the water. If you overfill your fuel tank, wipe the spill up immediately with a cloth. Do not hose the fuel into the water
- When flushing your fuel tank, make sure fuel does not enter the water. Dispose of the old fuel responsibly. Consider using a professional fuel disposal service
- Install a holding tank for sewage (this can be a portable caravan/camping toilet on small vessels). Dispose of holding tank contents at waste receiving facilities at boat ramps and marinas, or dispose of it in a toilet
- Limit the amount of water used for on-board sinks and showers. Use low sudsing or non-phosphate biodegradable soaps and detergents
- Wipe cooking utensils and plates clean with a paper towel before washing up, and don't let your BBQ oil run into waterways
- Keep your bilges clean to prevent pollutants being discharged overboard. Use an absorbent pad in the bilge to clean up oily water, and always dispose of the absorbent pads appropriately
- Prevent the spread of exotic aquatic weeds such as *Caulerpa taxifolia* (*Caulerpa*). Collect all plant fragments from trailers, props, anchors, ropes, chains, and fishing tackle into a sealed plastic bag and put the bag in the bin
- Collect all rubbish on board and dispose of it properly ashore – this includes food, cigarette butts, cleaning cloths and paper towels
- Once your boat is out of the water, clean it where debris can be captured and disposed of properly. When your boat is being scraped or sanded, use a vacuum sander or place a drop-sheet underneath to catch paint scrapings and dust, and dispose of these carefully
- When painting your boat's hull, use the right paint for the job and carefully follow the application instructions. Contact a marine painting professional for safe alternatives that are environmentally friendly.

Stop litter
in its tracks...

On land and sea,
put it in the bin
and keep our
waterways clean.

STOW IT
DON'T THROW IT



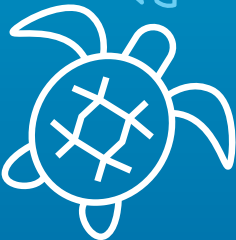
The dirty facts about litter



There is more microplastic in the ocean than there are **stars in the milky way**¹.



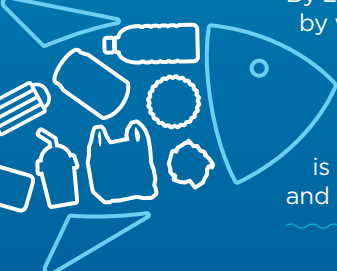
Up to **90%** of seabirds have eaten plastic².



If a turtle eats just one piece of plastic, it will have a **1 in 5 chance** of dying³.



Coral can ingest microplastic and may then **starve to death** as their digestive tracts fill up with plastic⁴.



By 2050 there will be more plastic by weight in the ocean than fish⁵.

There are up to **236,000 tons** of microplastics in the oceans⁶.

The Great Pacific garbage patch is now **double the size of NSW**, and growing rapidly⁷.

75% of beach rubbish is made of plastic⁸.

It is estimated that **1.32 billion cigarettes** are littered in NSW each year⁹.

Apple cores and banana peels take around **1-2 months** to decompose. While decomposing, food waste creates a breeding ground for insects and rats¹⁰.

In December 2020, along one stretch of shoreline of an estuary in Sydney we found an average of **one disposable mask every four metres**¹¹.



SOURCE

1. United Nations
2. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)
3. Sea Turtle Scientific Report
4. Marine Biology Scientific Report
5. Ellen MacArthur Foundation
6. IOPScience
7. Great Pacific Garbage Patch Scientific Report
8. Tangaroa Blue Foundation
9. NSW Environment Protection Authority
10. Keep Australia Beautiful WA
11. Key Littered Items Study, NSW EPA

**HEY
TOSSER!**
Put it in the bin.



Blues Point after New Years Eve



Dirty oil contaminated bilge



Litter and plastics found in our waterways

Cover photo - Tuggerah lake, Long Jetty on the Central Coast, courtesy of Destination NSW

For more information:



roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au



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