



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club (RPAYC) acknowledges its responsibility to protect and enhance the environment in which it operates. As a waterfront facility located on the shores of Pittwater, RPAYC recognises that its activities have the potential to impact the natural environment and is committed to conducting its operations in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

RPAYC is committed to continually improving its environmental management systems, reducing pollution risks, complying with applicable environmental legislation, and promoting environmental stewardship amongst members, tenants, contractors, employees and visitors.

As a participant in the Clean Marina Program and holder of an Environment Protection Licence issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority, RPAYC is committed to maintaining high environmental standards and fostering a culture of environmental awareness and accountability.

## Key Environmental Aspects

- RPAYC recognises that its principal environmental impacts arise from:
- Marina, mooring and vessel storage operations
- Boatyard and hardstand activities
- Vessel maintenance, mechanical servicing and repair works
- Fuel, oil, chemical and hazardous substance management
- Waste management and recycling
- Stormwater management and water quality protection
- Facility and grounds management
- Environmental emergency preparedness and response
- Environmental education, communication and stakeholder engagement

## RPAYC Will:

### Compliance and Governance

- Comply with all applicable environmental legislation, regulations, approvals, licences and industry standards.
- Maintain systems to identify, assess and manage environmental risks associated with Club operations.
- Investigate, report and respond appropriately to environmental incidents, complaints and non-compliances.
- Regularly review environmental performance and seek opportunities for continual improvement.

### Pollution Prevention

- Prevent pollution of land, water and air arising from Club activities.
- Protect Pittwater and surrounding waterways from contamination.
- Implement controls to minimise the risk of spills, leaks and uncontrolled discharges.
- Ensure waste, fuels, oils, chemicals and hazardous substances are stored, handled and disposed of responsibly.

### Resource Efficiency and Sustainability

- Minimise waste generation through reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives.
- Continue efforts to reduce and eliminate unnecessary single-use plastics and promote sustainable alternatives.
- Purchase environmentally responsible and recyclable products where practical.
- Improve energy and water efficiency across Club facilities and operations.
- Consider environmental and sustainability outcomes when planning projects, maintenance activities and capital works.

## Education and Engagement

- Provide environmental education, information and guidance to members, tenants, contractors, employees and visitors.
- Promote environmental awareness through signage, training and communication.
- Encourage stakeholder participation in environmental initiatives and responsible boating practices.
- Support industry and community programs that contribute to environmental protection and sustainability.

## Environmental Planning and Emergency Management

- Maintain environmental emergency response procedures.
- Regularly test, review and improve environmental and pollution incident response plans.
- Ensure employees/contractors understand their environmental responsibilities and emergency response requirements.

## Prohibited Activities

To protect the environment and water quality, RPAYC prohibits:

- Fishing from Club facilities and the disposal of fish waste on Club property.
- The discharge of sewage, contaminated bilge water, oily water, fuel, chemicals or grey water into waterways.
- Pressure washing vessel hulls while afloat.
- Abrasive underwater hull cleaning that may release antifouling coatings into the water.
- Disposal of waste, pollutants or contaminants into stormwater systems or waterways.
- Activities that create unacceptable land, water, air or noise pollution.
- Any activity that breaches environmental legislation, EPA licence conditions or Club environmental procedures.
- RPAYC permits the removal of light slime and soft marine growth using soft brushes, cloths or sponges where undertaken in accordance with applicable environmental requirements and industry best practice. Vessel lifting remains the preferred method for hull cleaning where contaminants can be effectively captured and managed.

## Commitment

RPAYC will establish and maintain environmental objectives, procedures and action plans to support this policy. Environmental performance will be monitored, reviewed and reported periodically to management, committees, members and other stakeholders. This policy is available to members, visitors, employees, tenants, contractors and the public through the Club's website and Reception.

## Pollution Incident and Environmental Reporting

Under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act), the following persons have a duty to immediately notify a pollution incident that causes or threatens material harm to the environment:

- a. The person carrying on the activity (including members, visitors, guests and contractors);
- b. An employee or agent carrying on the activity;
- c. An employer carrying on the activity; and
- d. The occupier of the premises where the incident occurs.

Notification must be made immediately, that is, promptly and without delay, after the person becomes aware of the incident.

All pollution incidents, environmental hazards, environmental complaints, spills, unauthorised discharges, or suspected breaches of environmental legislation, EPA licence conditions or Club environmental procedures must be reported to the Club immediately.

RPAYC will investigate all reported incidents and, where required, notify the NSW Environment Protection Authority and other relevant authorities in accordance with legislative requirements and the Club's Environment Protection Licence. In addition, any known or suspected breach of the Club's Environment Protection Licence must be reported immediately to Club management. RPAYC is required to notify the EPA of licence non-compliances within prescribed reporting timeframes.

Report Pollution Incidents, Environmental Concerns or Licence Breaches To:

Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club  
Telephone: (02) 9998 3700  
Email: waterfront@rpayc.com.au

NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)  
Environment Line: 131 555  
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Where there is an immediate risk to human health, safety or the environment, emergency services should be contacted on 000.

# WHS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

## High Risk Vessel Maintenance

Members who require work on their vessel that may be considered a WHS or environmental high risk on Club property, and specifically the marina or hardstands, must contact the Club for prior approval. Refer below list. The Club may require Members to move their vessel to either the work berths or the boatyard, where the risk mitigation measures and conditions of the licence can be met. In the event the requirements of the EPA licence as per the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (the POEO Act), Club By-Laws, policies or procedures cannot be met, the Club reserves the right to refuse approval.

### High risk work includes but is not limited to;

- Grinding
- Major sanding
- Spray painting
- Fuel transfers
- Rigg/Mast lifting
- Hot works

## General

- Members are required to notify the Club, have a facility agreement in place and must provide insurance for all vessels, trailers and storage items brought onto Club property. Storage fees are applicable
- Service wharf is for short term day berthing only (max 15 mins)
- Incidents and near misses must be reported to the Club
- Waste Bins; No domestic or bulk waste disposal, no disposal of hazardous chemicals, fuel, oil, gas bottles, batteries, flares or life rafts in garbage bins
- No dumping of gas bottles, hazardous chemicals, fuel anywhere on Club property
- External contractors; each employee is required to have undertaken the WH&S induction, hold a current Marine Card and insurances. Contractors may only park at the top car park (except Wed/Sat) or Crystal Bay and are required to sign in/out at the Club Reception or Boatyard Office.
- Ship to shore pump is located on the Service Wharf (depth restrictions apply)
- Cleaning; use low nitrogen and phosphorus detergents for on-board cleaning (refer to page 5)

## Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club prohibits;

- Fishing and the disposal of fish waste
- Abrasive underwater hull cleaning
- Discharge of sewage, contaminated or oily bilge and grey water
- Pressure washing hulls on the marina
- Any form of land, water or noise pollution

## Hardstands

- Areas immediately underneath and surrounding vessels must be kept clean, free of rubbish and debris
- Spills cleaned immediately or contact the Club for assistance
- No parking on the hardstand, pick up and drop off only
- Vessels brought onto hardstand facility licence agreement and insurance, crane induction is required
- Crane inductions are required in order to operate hardstand cranes

## Marina (including main gangways and fingers)

- kept clean, free of rubbish, debris and contaminants
- no storage of fuel, gas bottles or hazardous chemicals on gangway and fingers
- vessels must be secured in a such a manner to ensure no overhang gangway
- shore power leads must be tested and tagged every 12 months
- electrical equipment used must be tested and tagged
- spills cleaned immediately or contact the Club for assistance
- berth lines, shore power lead and hoses must not introduce a trip hazard
- courtesy trolleys to be returned to bays

## OUR ENVIRONMENT ..... HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Responsibility.** We all have a role to play in reducing the impact on the environment, you can help in a number of ways. All *Persons* on the *Premises* are expected to act in an environmentally responsible and safe manner and to cooperate with the Club Management and Marina Staff.

**Pollution.** It is the responsibility of the *Marina User* to comply with all of the relevant environmental laws and to recognise that all forms of pollution and contamination (including noise pollution) are prohibited on the *Premises*.

**Abrasive In-Water Hull Cleaning is prohibited** including any process removing antifouling paint from the *Vessel's* hull. The Club permits in-water cleaning with soft brushes, sponges and for minor build-up of slime on hull only. The Club recommends vessels are lifted at the Club Boatyard to ensure contaminants can be captured.

**Single use plastics** swap single use water/coffee containers for reusable containers, say no to plastic bags and bring your own, ask suppliers what they are doing to reduce single use plastics (influence the supply chain), find alternatives to plastics when and where you can and have an idea share it with us.

**Fishing is prohibited.** This is a fish friendly marina and fishing is prohibited. Do not feed the birds or fish. No fishing waste is to be disposed of at the Club.

**Noise.** Club Members and Guests shall not cause or permit any undue noise or disturbance to emanate from *Vessels*. Only activities which can be carried out within acceptable noise level can be conducted. These levels shall not exceed levels detailed by Northern Beaches Council. Apply brakes to wind generators.

**Ship to Shore Sewage.** Pump out of sewage from *Vessel* holding tanks can be carried out at the Ship to Shore Pump Out station free of charge located on the *Services Wharf*. Marina Users are reminded that the discharging of untreated sewage in enclosed waters in NSW is illegal.

**Fumes and odours.** Be aware of generated by *Vessels* and avoid the creation of fumes or odours.

**Clean and Tidy.** Club Members, Guests, Tenants and others must keep the *Premises* in a clean and tidy condition. Facility users must use the appropriate bins for recycling and general waste. For the disposal of gas bottles and batteries call the Club.

**Visual.** Please, avoid excessive lighting. No laundry or clothing shall be hung on or from the *Vessel*.

**Waste.** Disposal of any waste matter into the marine environment is prohibited at all times. At no stage can any materials or substance be allowed to enter the marine environment. **Overboard Dumping** of any debris is not permitted. Works which allows debris to drop into the water are not permitted. **Washing Down** of materials generated from maintenance or repairs into the water must be avoided at all times.

**Bilge water, sewage, grey water and run off** from washing *Vessels*, and other liquid wastes are not to be discharged in the marine environment. Pumping of bilges in enclosed waters in **NSW is illegal**.

**Harmful Waste.** All harmful wastes (including but not limited to; oil, oily waters and products, noxious liquids, drained oil filters, scrap metal including anodes, batteries, acids), and all other harmful waste must be removed directly from the *Vessel* offsite. No such liquids are to be placed down the sewer. For disposal contact RPAYC.

**Pet Wastage.** All *Persons* are required to clean up their pet's waste immediately. All *Persons* are required to clean up any rubbish / dirt / items scattered by their pet. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times whilst on Club property. Dogs are not permitted to use the Centreboard area (lawn) for toileting.

**Vessel Related Pollution.** All costs incurred in cleaning up spillages and in relation to any pollution are recoverable from the *Vessel Owner*. A Fee will also apply for waste removal.

**Report suspicious fish or aquatic plants** (dead and alive). Report a plant or fish you haven't seen before that could be a pest. If you think you have seen any of the marine or freshwater pest species, please either take a good quality digital photo, or collect a sample of the organism. If it's a fish, place it in a plastic bag and freeze it. If it's a seaweed, take the piece(s) home and carefully dry them between two sheets of blotting paper. Report the sighting to: DPI Aquatic Bio-security Unit [aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or telephone: (02) 4916 3877

# WATER POLLUTION

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club is committed to the protection and preservation of the Environment. Section 120 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act makes it an offence to cause pollution of waters.

For the full Protection of the Environment Operations Act or more information [Click Here](#)

## Abridged Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO). Dictionary.

### Water Pollution means;

placing... or otherwise introducing into or onto... through an act or omission any refuse, litter debris or other matter... so that the change in the condition of the waters... is likely to make the waters unclean, noxious, poisonous or impure, detrimental to the health...or obstructs or interferes with a persons ... enjoyment... of the waters.

### What constitutes water pollution?

Pollution of waters means;

Placing in or on, or otherwise introducing into or onto waters any matter so as to change the condition of the waters.

Placing any matter in a position where:

- (i) It falls, descends, is washed, blown or percolates, or
- (ii) It is likely to fall, descend, be washed, blown or percolates into any waters, onto the dry bed of any waters, or in any drain, channel or gutter used or designed to receive or pass rainwater, floodwater or any water that is no polluted.

### Who must report pollution incidents?

Under the POEO Act, the following people have a duty to notify a pollution incident occurring in the course of an activity that causes or threatens material harm to the environment. EPA Licence breaches must be reported immediately to the Club and the Club must report

- a. the person carrying on the activity (this includes; Members, Club visitors, guests and contractors)
- b. an employee or agent carrying on the activity
- c. an employer carrying on the activity
- d. the occupier of the premises where the incident occurs

Notification must be given immediately, i.e. promptly and without delay, after the person becomes aware of the incident. Report pollution, concerns or incidents to;

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club  
Telephone (02) 9998 3700  
email [waterfront@rpayc.com.au](mailto:waterfront@rpayc.com.au)

NSW EPA Environment Line for more information  
Telephone: 131 555  
email [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## POLICY IN WATER VESSEL WASHING

*Purpose:* To prevent pollutants discharging into the water from vessel cleaning activities.

*Procedure:* persons should wash Vessels by hand. Care is to be taken to minimise the amount of run off.

- sweep and collect material from vessel surface prior to rinsing
- rinse vessel decks and exteriors with water only
- Ensure compliance with water use restrictions. Use trigger nozzle on hose or turned off when not in use.
- Pressure washing may only be on the deck of vessels berthed on the marina, hull/waterline high pressure cleaning may only be carried out on the RPAYC Boatyard
- not use detergents where it may directly enter water, such as on the scum lines of the hull. Use warm water and/or rags or a brush instead.
- check product labels and use low nitrogen and phosphorus detergents for on-board cleaning
- mix the minimum amount of detergent required in a bucket to remove grime. Do not apply detergents directly onto brushes or the vessel
- use a mop and bucket or spill control equipment (absorbent sausages) to control wash-down water containing cleaning chemicals.
- dispose of wash-down water in bucket to Boatyard or landscaped areas
- clean and check anchor, fishing gear and seawater cooling systems on vessels as some marine pests can survive in the internal plumbing of vessels and can be translocated. report biofouling that has not been sighted before
- use warm instead of cold water as this leads to greater cleaning efficiency
- rinse hardstand/trailer vessels with freshwater after each trip, ensuring that the wastewater runoff does not re-enter the marine environment, and inspect the vessel for attached organisms. Remove any that are found and dispose of to a bin for landfill. Do not return organisms to water