



MEMORANDUM

To: Branch DOL's, Club Presidents, Patrol Captains and IRB/RWC Drivers
From: Stuart Harvey, Surf Life Saving NSW Director of Lifesaving
Date: 8 February 2018
Subject: Power Craft Operations Notice

Power Craft Operations Notice

Please be advised that Surf Life Saving NSW is granted exemptions by the NSW Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) to allow power craft to operate outside of the New South Wales Marine Safety Act 1998 and its Regulations to allow operators to fully deliver lifesaving services; including training. In particular, this allows operators to operate **within 60 metres** of swimming areas, but only when undertaking rescues or surf rescue training or patrolling. At all other times SLSNSW power craft must comply with the Act and Regulations and adhere to a **minimum of 30 metres** from any vessel, land, structures and other things or a distance of **not less than 60 metres** from any persons in the water or, if that is not practicable, **a safe distance and speed**.

It has been brought to SLSNSW's attention that a handful of IRB Drivers have been operating craft in a non-compliant manner that not only diminishes the integrity and professional standards of the organization but puts this exemption at risk for all operators. Investigations are currently underway to ensure relevant facts are obtained and corrective actions are followed to prevent a recurrence.

It is the responsibility of all power craft operators and Patrol Captains to ensure compliance with the Act, Regulations and the exemptions granted to SLSNSW is maintained. This can be achieved through review of the task and the manner in which it is performed, including conducting training away from beach users and monitoring the actions of our peers during operations.

For further information please reference the following:

- NSW RMS Marine Safety Act 1998
- NSW RMS Marine Safety Regulation 2016
- NSW Surf Life Saving Standard Operating Procedures (currently in review)
- SLSA Powercraft Code of Conduct

If you have any questions please contact Lachlan Wild, NSW Lifesaving Officer.

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