

**Submission  
No 103**

## **INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Boating Industry Association of NSW Ltd

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The Boating Industry Association's Response to

# Inquiry into the Adequacy of Water Storages in NSW

by the  
Legislative Council of NSW

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Boating Industry Association of NSW

September 2012



Boating Industry Association  
of New South Wales Ltd

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This submission has been prepared by the Boating Industry Association in response to the Inquiry into the Adequacy of Water Storages in NSW by the Standing Committee on State Development – Legislative Council of NSW.

**The Boating Industry Association of NSW Ltd** (the BIA) is an association of employers formed in 1960 and incorporated in 1970.

Amounting to around 700 in total, the BIA's membership generates over 90% of commercial activity in the sector, which directly employs approximately 8000 people. Membership comprises boat manufacturers and importers, supply-chain goods manufacturers and importers, brokers and retailers (of vessels and equipment), boat storage and service facility operators (marinas, boat yards and slipways, dry-storage etc), providers of industrial services to the recreational and light commercial boating industry (shipwrights, surveyors, mechanics, engineers, technicians, detailers, riggers, sail-makers and upholsterers, painters etc), and providers of travel/ tourism, advisory, and incidental goods and services.

The BIA is head-quartered in Crows Nest, has sister organizations in other States, and is part of a federated structure - the Boating Industry Alliance Australia.

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## **Executive Summary**

Recreational boating and fishing activity is widespread and intensive throughout NSW coastal, estuarine, and river regions.

Increasing population places pressure on traditional boating and fishing waterways which may be relieved through enabling of appropriate activity in NSW water storages.

The BIA believes that provision of access to water storages for appropriate boating and fishing activity, and enabling of relevant infrastructure, would result in improved and more equitable recreational opportunities for the public, thereby delivering improved commercial, economic and employment outcomes.

We note that, the Inquiry's Terms of Reference have not specifically sought to review the capacity of water storages in NSW to address the recreational needs of the State. We seek to have boating and fishing activity considered in this context.

## **Background**

Boating and in NSW is an increasingly popular form of recreation, and a significant driver of domestic tourism – the industry directly employs approximately 8000 people, and is assessed to support an additional 5000 jobs.

In compliment to direct annual revenues of \$2 Billion, a further \$1.38 Billion p.a. in spending is attributed to recreational boating related travel & tourism, accounting for 4.3% of the NSW “day-trip” market and 9.7% of overnight-stays.

Fishing is the motivation for over 60% of recreational boating trips in NSW. Fishing – whether from boats, dry land, or fixed infrastructure, is widely thought to be the most popular form of outdoor recreation in Australia, with up to 4 million participants per year across the country.

Over 220 000 vessels are registered in NSW, and around 500 000 people hold a license to operate a vessel.

Paddle-craft (kayaks, canoes, etc.) and Off-the-beach-craft (mainly small sailing boats) represent the fastest growing boating sub-sectors in terms of both participation & sales of units. Neither category is required to be registered in NSW, nor are operators required to hold a license. Numbers of craft & participants are therefore not known, but some stakeholders estimate that these are fast approaching those of powered craft.

## **Suggestions**

Support of appropriate boating and fishing activity in water storages in NSW represents a significant recreational, commercial, and employment opportunity for the State.

**In order to explore this opportunity, The Boating Industry Association requests leave to appear before the Standing Committee, and will be happy to provide further information upon request.**

END