

THE RIGHT GEAR – BOATING



Boating is an extremely popular activity in and around Australian coastal waterways. There are 2.7 million coastal boaters in Australia, of which 700,000 are frequent participants. An estimated 18% of Australians go boating each year, with the majority from Queensland, Tasmania, and New South Wales.

Recreational boating is consistently the second highest coastal drowning activity nationally (following swimming & wading). Between 2004-19, more than half (53%) of all coastal boating drowning deaths were known not to be wearing a lifejacket. Lifejackets clearly positively impact the outcome of boating incidents yet are rarely worn as recommended. Currently, legislation is state-based and varies according to each state.

MINIMISING YOUR RISKS

Before you go boating it's important that you **STOP. LOOK. PLAN**

STOP

- Check the weather. Is it a boating day today?
- Check the tides and other water conditions

LOOK

- Ensure there are lifejackets for each person
- Check over your boat and engine
- Ensure you have a charged phone, registered EPIRB, spot tracker and/or radio

PLAN

- Let someone know where you're planning to go and when you plan to be back
- Know what to do in an emergency
- Know your boat and waterway regulations
- Remember alcohol and boating don't mix

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

- Dial 000 on your mobile or put out a call out on channel 16 over your radio
- Activate the EPIRB (if required)
- If you're not in immediate danger report any incident to your State police
- Stay calm and move away from any danger
- Ensure everyone is wearing a lifejacket
- For more information check the Maritime/Transport service in your State