



CORPORATE POLICY STATEMENT NO. 59

MOORINGS

June 2016

1. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this policy is to provide direction on the control and management of moorings on land and waters to which the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act land) applies to:

- maintain the ecological and social values of marine parks and reserves by minimising the detrimental impacts of uncontrolled mooring and anchoring;
- improve user safety, access and equity in relation to moorings in marine parks and reserves; and
- provide a management framework to accommodate present and future mooring use in marine parks and reserves.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the control and management of all moorings on CALM Act land.

The policy does not apply to moorings in the Swan Canning Riverpark, which are managed under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Act 2006*. A mooring management program is in place whereby the Department of Transport controls and manages moorings in the Riverpark on behalf of the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

3. CONTEXT

The Department of Parks and Wildlife (the department) manages marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas in marine and estuarine waters throughout the State. Most marine parks and reserves are a focus for recreational boating and many are located in high use areas adjacent to the Perth metropolitan area and along the south-west and Ningaloo coasts.

As boat ownership in Western Australia continues to increase, there is a need to manage moorings in marine parks and reserves to minimise impacts to the environment as well as manage public safety and an increasing demand for moorings.

Moorings play an important role in protecting areas with high conservation value such as coral reef and seagrass because well-designed moorings minimise the need for anchoring and thereby reduce anchor damage. Moorings also provide better access to locations of interest such as dive sites and provide an improved level of security and safety for vessels.

Environmental and climatic characteristics, as well as visitor use patterns vary significantly across CALM Act lands, so this policy and its supporting guidelines provide a range of options to assist managers in applying appropriate responses to mooring related issues.

4. LEGISLATION

The CALM Act applies to land and waters such as national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas. Under the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 (CALM Regulations), lawful authority is required to install a mooring, or secure a vessel to a mooring, or allow a mooring to remain on CALM Act land. Part 3 Division 3 of the CALM Regulations deals with moorings.

5. POLICY

- 5.1 The department will manage moorings in accordance with the *Corporate Guideline No. 7: Management of Moorings*.
- 5.2 The department acknowledges that well-located, designed and maintained moorings assist in minimising anchor damage and facilitate visitor access to marine parks and reserves.
- 5.3 Parks and Wildlife will establish moorings when:
 - there is an environmental, safety, social, equity or management reason to do so; and
 - the relevant region/district has the resources to manage moorings.
- 5.4 Moorings plans will be prepared for each marine park and reserve and will identify approved mooring areas and the number of private, public and rental moorings that are appropriate. Consultation with the community and key stakeholders will be undertaken through the planning process. Moorings plans (and significant revisions) will be referred to the Conservation and Parks Commission and the Minister for Environment.
- 5.5 The determination of whether moorings should be private, public or rental moorings will be made on a case-by-case basis, however:
 - where acceptable from environmental, social and equity perspectives, private moorings will be preferred to public moorings to minimise the department's financial and legal liability;
 - to maximise the use of moorings, cooperative arrangements for their installation and use are preferred to individually installed/used moorings, for example, moorings that are established by clubs for use by members; and
 - public and/or rental moorings may be used to facilitate and manage access to particular sites, including sites that are environmentally sensitive and where the provision of private moorings is not appropriate, viable or possible.
- 5.6 Access to mooring sites in approved mooring areas will be provided:
 - where the availability of private and public moorings sites exceeds the demand, a first-come first-permitted basis will apply until the capacity is reached;
 - where the demand for moorings sites exceeds the supply, allocation of sites will be through an open competitive process for private moorings (for example, through an expression of interest, ballot, rotating or sharing arrangement or waiting list) and/ or through the provision of rental moorings; and
 - reasonable provisions will be made to ensure access to moorings for both commercial and recreational users.

- 5.7 Moorings will only be permitted where they are environmentally acceptable and take into account marine safety requirements. To facilitate this:
- private moorings will be located within gazetted mooring areas and managed under private mooring licences;
 - applications for private moorings outside gazetted mooring licence areas will generally not be approved, however they may be granted lawful authority on a case by case basis in accordance with *Corporate Guideline No. 7: Management of Moorings*;
 - the suitability of moorings will be considered against the management objectives specified in the CALM Act management plan for each marine park or reserve;
 - the environmental criteria for moorings outlined in *Corporate Guideline No. 7: Management of Moorings* will be applied; and
 - existing moorings will be required to obtain lawful authority or a private mooring licence and may be required to be upgraded, modified, relocated or removed within an appropriate timeframe. It is the department's understanding that no existing moorings on CALM Act land have been installed pursuant to written law.
- 5.8 A private mooring licensing system in a marine park or reserve will only be implemented following the preparation of a moorings plan involving community consultation and where resources permit.
- 5.9 When licensing private moorings, the department will apply a fee set on a cost-recovery basis to meet the administrative costs of licensing the mooring.
- 5.10 A mooring may be designated as a rental mooring when the demand exceeds supply and a user pays system is feasible. A rental mooring may be made available to rent at all times or during a period or periods of time, or for a specified duration, as stipulated in a rental mooring licence.
- 5.11 Public moorings will be available for use on a first-come first-permitted basis and use will be permitted subject to conditions that will be displayed on the mooring. Public moorings will generally be for use on a daily basis. The department may require users to obtain lawful authority to use a public mooring overnight, and this would be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.12 Arrangements for dedicated use of public moorings by users such as commercial tour operators or other government departments will be put in place following consultation with other mooring users. Costs may be recouped from these groups for this use. At other times, the mooring is a public mooring subject to the usual rules relating to public mooring management.
- 5.13 Temporary mooring areas will be designated to allow for moorings on an occasional basis, and will be managed in accordance with conditions specified by sign(s) in or in the vicinity of the area.

6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 6.1 The Director Parks and Visitor Services will maintain, and update as required, the *Guidelines for the Management of Moorings*.
- 6.2 Parks and Visitor Services Division will provide advice on moorings plans, policy and guidelines, the development of educational material and the development of a moorings database.

6.3 Science and Conservation Division will provide environmental advice on moorings plans, policy and guidelines.

6.4 Regional and Fire Management Services Division will provide technical advice, develop moorings plans, assess and approve applications for moorings, maintain and manage moorings, monitor compliance with lawful authority and licence conditions, and facilitate the development and maintenance of a moorings management system to administer mooring licences and retain a record of authorised moorings in the moorings database.

7. CUSTODIAN

Director Parks and Visitor Services.

8. PUBLICATION

This policy will be made available on the department's website and intranet.

9. KEY WORDS

Mooring, private mooring, rental mooring, public mooring.

10. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no later than June 2021.

11. DIRECTOR GENERAL APPROVAL

Approved by



Jim Sharp
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Effective date: 15 June 2016