

Summary of Information

Amendment to Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws 2003

1. Purpose

The purpose is to inform the public of the proposed change to the Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws 2003.

2. Background

2.1 The problem

The Lyall Bay reserved area is potentially unsafe due to reports of jet skiers using their jet skis outside of the reserved area and surfers and other beach users encroaching on the reserved area. There is concern that if nothing is done to resolve this problem then serious injury could result.

2.2 Potential solutions

As part of its decision making process the Council is required to identify and assess all reasonably practicable strategies that could provide the desired solution. The following potential strategies could address the problem:

- Maintain the status quo (i.e. undertake no further work on amending the bylaws); or
- Move the reserved area in Lyall Bay; or
- Public education

Maintaining the status quo is not a satisfactory option, increasing the signage and enforcement are costly and not guaranteed to remove the safety concerns that have developed. There is nowhere to move the reserved area to at Lyall Bay which would not encroach on existing users. Public education is limited by the nature of the users.

3. Summary of the Proposed Amendment to the Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws 2003

3.1 Proposed amendment

Amend Part B of Schedule 2 to remove Lyall Bay as an area reserved for use by personal water craft.

3.2 Summary of the Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws 2003

Section 1 Preliminary Provisions:

- Explains where the bylaws apply
- Definitions clarify the use of specific terms within these bylaws

Section 2 General Matters relate to:

- carriage and use of lifejackets
- the movements of people and vessels around wharves in launching areas
- maintaining vessels in seaworthy condition
- anchoring and mooring
- notification of incidents and accidents
- damage to navigation aids
- use of distress signals

Section 3 Operating Requirements relate to:

- the age of power boat operators
- the speed of vessels in certain circumstances
- restrictions and exemptions relating to speed of vessels
- the use of navigation lights on vessels
- the use of dive flags
- water skiing and towing
- access lanes and reserved areas, marking and usage
- special events
- moorings

Section 4 Tankers, hazardous cargoes, hazardous works and dangerous materials relate to:

- vessels carrying explosives
- oil tankers, responsibilities of vessels and signals to be made
- hot work (gas cutting welding etc) on ships

Section 5 Administrative Matters relate to:

- appointment of council officers
- who is responsible for a vessel
- licensing of commercial operations
- fees and charges

Section 6 Wellington Harbour relate to:

- transiting Wellington Harbour entrance
- navigating in Wellington Harbour

- pleasure craft keeping clear of shipping
- marine radio reporting and listening requirements
- speed limit in Lambton Harbour
- restricted areas for non commercial vessels

Schedule 1 defines the areas to which the bylaws apply.

Schedule 2 defines:

- where not to anchor
- the explosives anchorage
- where bulk oil may be discharged
- restricted areas for non-commercial vessels

Schedule 3 shows maps and gives descriptions for water-ski access lanes and reserved areas in the region.

Schedule 4 is an example of a hot work permit

Schedule 5 are fees relevant to the bylaws

4. Availability of proposed bylaws

This Summary of Information contains the significant alterations proposed for the Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws 2003. A full copy of the proposed bylaws is available from Greater Wellington Regional Council Offices in Wellington and Masterton or from our website www.gw.govt.nz.

5. Submission process

Comments and submissions on the proposed bylaws are invited to be received by the Greater Wellington Regional Council by 5pm, 25 August 2006. If required, a hearing will be held in September 2006. Submitters should indicate in their submission if they wish to be heard in person to support their submission.