



The Hon Luke Donnellan MP

Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Minister for Ports

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Ref: CMIN178204R

Judge Sara Hinchey
State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Judge Hinchey

I am writing in response to the letter from your office dated 22 June 2017, regarding the investigation into the death of Mr Robert Andrew Brewster (reference: **COR 2012 0748**).

The Government seeks to achieve the highest practicable safety standards for recreational boating and the use of personal watercraft in Victoria through regulation and licensing, as well as through education and awareness raising. The Government's commitment to achieving the highest practicable safety standards is evidenced by initiatives it is undertaking.

Following a review of Personal Watercraft (PWC) licence endorsement requirements in 2015, the Government has taken action to address safety risks associated with the use of PWC by persons aged between 12 and 16 years. The data available on incidents indicates that a disproportionate number of persons between 12 and 16 are being injured on PWCs. This data and anecdotal evidence made available by the water police and Transport Safety Victoria prompted the Government to propose legislative change. The *Ports and Marine Legislation Amendment Bill 2017*, which is currently before Parliament, includes an amendment that effectively precludes the holders of restricted licences (persons aged between 12 and 16 years) from being able to operate a PWC without adult supervision.

In response to your recommendation to: *"introduce a relevant practical component as part of the assessment process for general and restricted marine licences, and for personal watercraft endorsements"*, this recommendation is under consideration.


I have asked Transport for Victoria (in cooperation with Transport Safety Victoria) to conduct a review of the options for introducing practical requirements for licensing of recreational boating and personal watercraft, and review available data on injuries arising from marine incidents

The review will involve the formation of a stakeholder reference group, comprised of representatives from Government, boating advocacy groups, and industry groups. This reference group will review the relevant options, as well as the supporting data and available research, and report back to me with a shortlist of preferred options.

I trust that you support this proposed review and agree that the process I have outlined will serve to respond to your recommendation.

If you require further information, please contact Anita Curnow, Acting Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform, of Transport for Victoria on 03 8392 6732.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Donnellan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Ports

21/9/2017