Water craft storage on public land policy

Water craft Storage

Our policy

We will manage the storage of water craft on public land for the benefit of water craft owners and for the convenience and enjoyment of the broader community accessing our foreshore parks, promenades and beaches.

The foreshore public open space areas around Sydney Harbour are limited and under high demand for a wide variety of passive and active recreational pastimes. Informal, ad-hoc and unauthorized water craft storage can be unsightly, potentially dangerous, and alienate and restrict public access to, and enjoyment of, public foreshore areas.

In some locations Council will install and maintain purpose built dinghy storage facilities to aid the management of water craft.

Objective

The objectives of this policy include:

- To provide for the orderly storage of dinghies and other personal water craft in designated storage areas;
- To prevent alienation of public open space through inappropriate and ad-hoc storage of dinghies and other personal water craft;
- To ensure that abandoned, derelict or illegally stored water craft are removed from foreshore areas where they constitute hazard, cause damage to the environment or a nuisance to foreshore areas; and
- To ensure that all dinghy storage facilities operate in an efficient manner and are maintained correctly.

How this policy relates to our Management Plan

This policy is prepared in accordance with the objectives of the Parks & Public Space Principal Activity. The objectives include:

- To provide open space and recreational facilities which meet the needs of the community.
- To promote appropriate use of open space and recreational facilities for the well-being of the community.

Implementation

Water craft storage facilities:

Council provides or plans to provide water craft storage facilities or designated storage areas at:

- Rose Bay Park
- Tingira Memorial Park
- Gibsons Beach Reserve
- Marine Parade, Watsons Bay

Other facilities or designated areas may be provided subject to demonstrated demand and Council approval.

Where water craft storage facilities are proposed to be installed close to adjoining residences, Council will consult with the affected residents, and where objections are raised, report on the matter to Council for its consideration.

Water craft owners wishing to store vessels on public open space must obtain an approval from Council. Generally approved storage of water craft will be restricted to Council facilities or designated areas at a number of locations within Woollahra.

Large trailer-sized vessels such as catamarans will not be permitted to be stored on public open space, as they alienate a large area from public use as compared to smaller water craft.

Derelict, Abandoned or Inappropriately Stored Water craft

Dinghies and water craft stored in foreshore areas in an uncontrolled manner will be removed where there is adverse environmental and/or recreational impact, or where suitable storage facilities have been provided.

Craft that are derelict, awaiting repair, abandoned or inappropriately installed in a storage facility will be removed and impounded by Council Rangers in accordance with the *Impounding Act 1993*.

Craft without a permit sticker and taking up space in a facility will also be removed under the *Impounding Act 1993*.

Budget & Identification of expenditure

Council will determine a fee each year for the hiring of a storage space. The fees will cover the cost of Council resources required to administer the policy and associated procedures for water craft storage facility hire. Fees will also be used to maintain and enhance the water craft storage facilities.

Ratepayers of Woollahra pay a reduced (subsidised) hire fee.

A discounted fee applies to permits of three years.

The yearly rental of a dinghy storage facility will commence 1 July and terminate 30 June. Fees may also be paid on a pro rata basis for part of a year.

An invoice will be forwarded to current permit holders in June each year. If the invoice is not paid within the allocated time, the storage space will be forfeited and allocated to the next applicant on Council's waiting list.

Definitions

Dinghy. Is a single hull water craft no longer than 3.5m in length.

Dinghy storage facilities. Typically these are facilities specifically constructed to facilitate the orderly storage of dinghies.

Designated water craft storage areas. These are defined areas where water craft are permitted to be stored. Designated areas may, or may not, be provided with a constructed storage facility.

Want to know more?

For further information on this policy contact our Public Open Space Department. Advice is available from:

- Recreational Bookings Coordinator on 9391 7077
- Parks and Recreation Coordinator on 9391 7142

Version: draft
Approval date:

This part of our policy provides an overall summary of the intention and reason for a policy. Specific implementation procedures are available on request. The General Manager has approved this policy and the attached procedures.

Gary James, General Manager