

Recreational Pontoon Policy

First Approved	17 March 2025 (Resolution Ref: C79/03/25)
Review Frequency	4 yearly or as required
Status	Council Policy
Last Reviewed	17 March 2025 (Resolution Ref: C79/03/25)
Next Review Due	March 2029
File Number	ECM ID – 5945511
Responsible Division	Infrastructure - Assets
Related Documents	WHS Policies and Procedures Risk Management Policy Risk Management Framework Horseshoe Bay Pontoon – Operational Procedure
Applicable Legislation	<i>Harbors and Navigation Act 1993 (SA)</i> <i>Local Government Act 1999</i>

1. Purpose

This Policy provides direction and guidance on the provision and management of Recreational Pontoons owned by Council or under its care and control within the Alexandrina district.

2. Scope

- 2.1 In general terms, pontoons are floating marine structures that provide launching, mooring retrieval and navigational aid outcomes.
- 2.2 In South Australia these marine structures are controlled under the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993 (SA)*.
- 2.3 In terms of this Policy a pontoon is a floating marine structure that is dedicated to recreational use, rather than the more traditional uses stated above.
- 2.4 This Policy is therefore limited to the specific Recreational Pontoons listed below for which Council has care and control:
 - A single pontoon located in Horseshoe Bay, Port Elliot.
- 2.5 This Policy covers the following aspects of the above stated pontoons:
 - Care and control
 - Liability
 - Levels of Service
 - New/additional recreational pontoons

3. Definitions

Recreational Pontoon is a pontoon under Council's care and control provided for recreational purposes (i.e. sitting, respite from swimming, etc).

Policy Statement

4. Care and Control

- 4.1 Council has care and control over any Recreational Pontoons identified above. This includes ensuring that a Recreational Pontoon is appropriately licenced, insured and managed to a level of service that is reasonable and practical.
- 4.2 Council has complete control over the operation of the identified Recreational Pontoons and reserves the right, without notice, to remove a Pontoon from service at any given time.
- 4.3 The level of service is detailed below.

5. Liability

- 5.1 Anyone using a Recreational Pontoon does so at their own risk and liability.

6. Levels of service

- 6.1 Under its responsibilities around care and control of Recreational Pontoons, the Council will ensure, to a reasonable and practicable level, the following is occurring:
 - Hours of operation – The Pontoon will be operational during daylight hours all year, unless removed from service.
 - Navigation lights/beacon – If required a navigation light/beacon will be maintained on the Pontoon.
 - Inspection –
 - Regular visual above water inspections with the frequency to be determined in consultation with Council's indemnifier and specified in the relevant Procedure.
 - Annual engineering assessment of the asset and mooring - The annual engineering assessment, which will be timed to be outside of the peak summer period, may include the removal of the Pontoon from the water to undertake that assessment and any required repairs.
 - Maintenance –
 - The Pontoon may undergo maintenance or repair at any time without notice. This may require the Pontoon to be removed from the water.
 - Vandalism –
 - In the event that a Pontoon is vandalised or tampered with i.e. flipped, Council reserves the right to remove the Pontoon from the water and assess the further provision of the Pontoon.
 - Damage –
 - If a Pontoon is damaged or breaks free of its moorings Council may remove the Pontoon from service without notice to undertake further assessment or repairs.

7. New / additional recreational pontoons

Requests for Council to commission or take care and control of additional Recreational Pontoons will be subject to a full due diligence exercise prior to being considered for Council approval.

8. Availability of Policy

This Policy will be available for inspection on the Council's website www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au. Copies can also be provided upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.