

DINGHIES AND OTHER WATERCRAFT MANAGEMENT POLICY

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**PREPARED BY:
ASSET SERVICES UNIT**



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SUTHERLAND SHIRE

1. PURPOSE

Dinghies and other watercraft are often used to access the public foreshores of the Shire's waterways. Leaving dinghies and other watercraft unattended can impact the environment and people's ability to enjoy public land. This Policy enables an approach for managing dinghies and other watercraft left unattended on public land.

2. APPLICATION

This Policy applies to all members of the public or community groups who use public land to launch a dinghy or other watercraft.

Application of this Policy will:

- Provide a basis for the management of dinghies and other watercraft that reflects Council's strategic objectives for open space;
- Ensure high quality foreshore reserves are available for the whole community to enjoy;
- Minimise environmental impacts, hazards and obstructions caused by watercraft left unattended;
- Facilitate the removal of unattended dinghies and other watercraft from public land.

3. PRINCIPLES

3.1 Application of Principles

No one principle should be applied to the detriment of another. Principles must be collectively considered when applying this Policy.

3.2 Council supports the equitable provision of public land for general recreation purposes

Dinghies and other watercraft are used to access public foreshores for the convenience of a single owner or group. If left unattended, these vessels can affect people's ability to enjoy the land, by taking up valuable space or detracting from the amenity of the foreshore. Council supports the equitable provision of high-quality open space for use by the whole community for general recreation purposes.

3.3 Council will regulate dinghies and other watercraft left unattended on public land

The practice of leaving dinghies and other watercraft on public land conflicts with Council's strategic objectives for open space and the activity can have negative impacts on public land. They can create hazards and restrict other people's access to public land. They can cause visual pollution, damage trees and affect the character of the foreshore. At locations where dinghies and other watercraft are left unattended on public land, Council will take steps to have the vessel removed by the owner or will otherwise impound the vessel.

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3.4 Derelict vessels will be removed

Derelict vessels will be removed from a public place immediately.

3.5 Commercial operations craft are not permitted to be stored on public land

Commercial operators are not permitted to store vessels on beaches, foreshores or public land.

3.6 Inspection of public spaces will be undertaken

Inspections will be undertaken by Council to ensure dinghies and other watercraft are not being left unattended on public land.

3.7 The implications of this Policy are to be advertised to the public

Through education and interpretive measures, Council will assist the public to understand the implications of this Policy, the responsibilities of dinghy owners and Council's management and enforcement procedures.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Responsible Officer

The Manager Asset Services is the Responsible Officer for this Policy and is responsible for updating and application of this Policy.

4.2 Chief Executive Officer

Council has delegated the Chief Executive Officer the authority to exercise the responsibilities detailed in this Policy.

4.3 Directors

Directors are responsible for ensuring their Division adheres to the requirements of this Policy and provide guidance in respect of achievement of the strategic objectives of the Policy within their division and the organisation.

4.4 Employees

Employees must adhere to the requirements of this Policy and operate within its authorities.

5. POLICY COMPLIANCE

Council has authorised officers who will enforce the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021*. Authorised officers may make inspections of foreshores and where dinghies or other watercraft are left unattended on public land, vessels may be removed or impound notices issued.

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Council's approach to enforcement under this Policy will rely on community education in the first instance followed by removal or impounding vessels.

6. RECORD KEEPING, CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

Council adheres to and complies with the *NSW State Records Act 1998* and *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* through its Access to Information Policy and Privacy Management Plan.

7. BREACHES OF POLICY

Breaches of this Policy will be dealt with in accordance with normal disciplinary procedures and will be advised to the Chief Executive Officer and / or Director Shire Infrastructure and Operations, via the Manager Asset Services, where appropriate.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Community Strategic Plan
- Open Space Strategy and Implementation Plan

9. RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

- *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW)*
- *Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW)*
- *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021*
- *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Regulation 2022*

10. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Term	Meaning
Dinghy	A single hulled vessel used to access the waterway for water-based recreation or to access moorings.
Watercraft	Any other vessel used for water-based recreation or to access moorings, such as kayaks, surf-skis, outrigger canoes, sail boats or catamarans.
Vessel	A general term used to describe a dinghy, watercraft or boat.
Storage	Leaving a vessel on public land so it can remain in that location for future use.

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Term	Meaning
Derelict vessel	A vessel left on public land which appears to be damaged or unseaworthy.
Public Land	Land owned or managed by Council that is set aside for the purpose of public recreation.
Impound	Steps that will be taken to remove a vessel from public land in accordance with the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021.

End of Document

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