

PUBLIC BUOY MOORINGS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek the SA Boating Facilities Advisory Committee's (SABFAC) endorsement to progress the implementation of public buoy moorings as a pilot project in South Australia.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 South Australia is the only State without government-provided Public Buoy Moorings.
- 2.2 In 2020 the Glenelg Yacht Club (GYC) obtained a grant through SABFAC to install 18 public buoy moorings. However, the GYC rejected the grant as it was not able to meet the grant funding conditions placed upon it. The main challenge was managing public availability and securing adequate public liability insurance that was affordable.
- 2.3 The Department then took the lead to examine the feasibility of developing a statewide approach to installing and managing public buoy moorings.
- 2.4 In March 2023, the Department established a consultative group comprising the Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia, Royal South Australia Yacht Squadron, Glenelg Yacht Club, Garden Island Yacht Club, Port Adelaide Sailing Club and the Boating Industry Australia to progress this initiative.
- 2.5 The consultative group is mainly made up of yacht clubs (deep keel vessels) who believe the benefits they receive from facilities funded projects are not commensurate with the contributions yacht owners make to the fund.

Pilot Project Development

- 2.6 The Department with the consultative group met on several occasions to progress public buoy moorings. Due to its complexity, it was decided to develop this as a trial pilot project.
- 2.7 On 14 September 2023, SABFAC (meeting No 111) was presented with a Public Buoy Moorings SABFAC Funding Submission. It was presented as a pilot project comprising of 9 moorings plus a potential for another 6 moorings.

SABFAC recommended that a feasibility assessment be completed first before any further consideration could be made.
- 2.8 The Department engaged Oropesa to complete a feasibility assessment on public moorings, specifically to assess; navigational safety, legal risk, environmental impact and legislative compliance. An important aspect was to understand the administration effort and financing required to manage the scheme.
- 2.9 The feasibility assessment included reviewing suggested locations of public moorings from the consultative group as well as reporting on how other buoy mooring schemes in other States are managed.
- 2.10 Oropesa's report was completed in July 2024 and was presented to the consultative group on 16 August 2024. It was well received by the consultative group.
- 2.11 On 29 August 2024 SABFAC (meeting No 115) was presented with the findings of the Oropesa report as well as a full copy of the report.

Feasibility Assessment (Oropesa) Findings

- 2.12 The Oropesa report noted that the commonality amongst the other States is that the establishment, operation and governance of moorings, including public buoy moorings is uniformly empowered by specific legislation in each State.

No other State has any moorings governed without an Act, Regulation or By-law.
- 2.13 The Oropesa report found that existing legislation does not permit the Department to install public buoy moorings unless established in a boat haven or within a crown lease

over a water area with specific terms and conditions related to the lease agreement.

- 2.14 The Oropesa report assessed the proposed mooring locations and advised that those located at West Cape Bay were not suitable as a safe place to moor. Other public buoy mooring locations were slightly revised to more safer locations.
- 2.15 Oropesa recommended in the short-term further consideration by the Government to implement a Public Buoy Mooring Pilot Project either by establishing a boat haven or granting a seabed licence (to an entity) to manage the moorings.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 In consideration of the Oropesa report, the Department is proposing to install 8 public buoy moorings (refer Attachment A) at an estimated cost of \$165 000 (excl GST) at American River, Bay of Shoals and Kingscote provided it can:
 - progress the establishment legislatively of a boat haven around each mooring site either individually or as a cluster group,
 - ensure the public buoy moorings can be adequately insured,
 - ensure the public buoy moorings are of an eco-friendly design, and
 - the public buoy mooring system can be managed by the Department in an administratively efficient and effective manner.
- 3.2 At this stage, it is the expectation that under this scheme that public buoy moorings will not be pre-booked but will be occupied on a “first come first serve” basis for up to 24 hours maximum stay.
- 3.3 The public buoy moorings, once installed, will be managed under a 5-year contract to ensure they are annually inspected, serviced and kept in working order. This cost will be borne from the annual Departmental appropriations (ie not from the boating facilities fund).

4. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that SABFAC endorse the following Motion:

- 4.1 *That SABFAC endorse the installation of a Public Buoy Moorings pilot project to install 8 public buoy moorings located at Kingscote (2No), American River (3No) and Bay of Shoals (3No) subject to the establishment of a boat haven under the Regulation at an estimated cost of \$165 000 (excl GST) and the Department's acceptance to administer, indemnify, inspect and maintain the public mooring buoys.*

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References:

Department of Infrastructure and Transport (2 Aug 2024),
SA Public Buoy Moorings Project SABFAC Funding Submission
Knet [20121472](#)

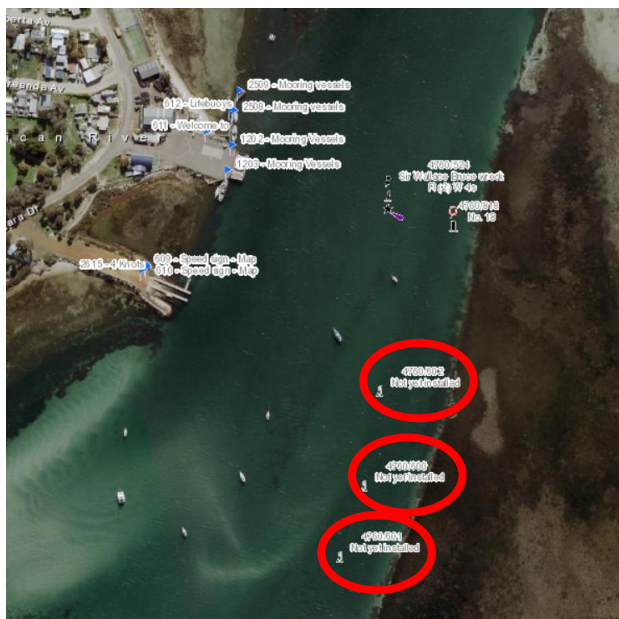
Oropesa Holdings Pty Ltd (July 2024),
Public Buoy Moorings, A study to consider the establishment of Public Buoy Moorings in South Australian Coastal Waters.
Knet [22077800](#)

Attachment A
Locations of Public Buoy Moorings

Kingscote (2No)



American River (3No)



Bay of Shoals (3No)



Location	Mooring #	Designation	Longitude (GDA94)				Latitude (GDA 94)			
			Deg	Min	Sec	Dir	Deg	Min	Sec	Dir
Kingscote	K1	4750/601	35	39	9.6	S	137	38	55.8	E
	K2	4750/602	35	39	1.2	S	137	38	54.6	E
American River	A1	4760/600	35	47	22.09	S	137	46	29.78	E
	A2	4760/601	35	47	24.21	S	137	46	28.86	E
	A3	4760/602	35	47	19.25	S	137	46	30.36	E
Bay of Shoals	B1	4750/603	35	38	16	S	137	37	43	E
	B2	4750/604	35	38	8.4	S	137	37	22.8	E
	B3	4750/605	35	38	9.6	S	137	37	25.8	E