

The boating community in New South Wales is fortunate enough to have an abundance of beautiful waterways and foreshores to enjoy.

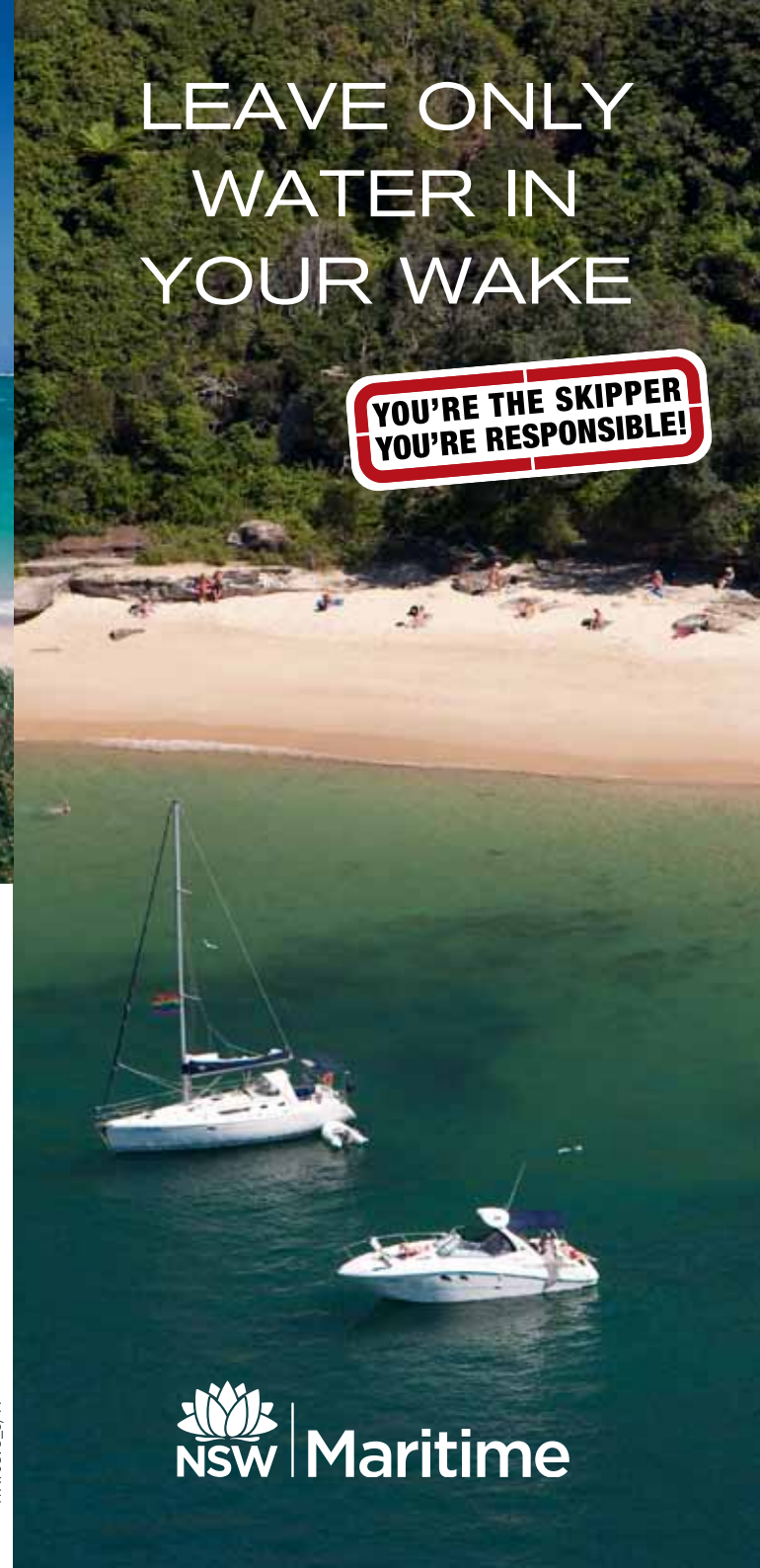
As we come to realise the limits that these environments can tolerate, and how close we are to those limits, it becomes essential for each of us to follow the best possible environmental practices in using and maintaining our boats on and around the water.



Litter at the high tide mark; everyone can help to prevent this.



Take care near seagrass beds as they are important fish habitats and can easily be damaged.



LEAVE ONLY WATER IN YOUR WAKE

**YOU'RE THE SKIPPER
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE!**



Info line **13 12 56**
www.maritime.nsw.gov.au

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LEAVE ONLY WATER IN YOUR WAKE

Sensible environmental practices when using and maintaining our boats will go a long way to preserving the aquatic environment for future generations.

Here are some suggestions on how to enjoy the experience of boating while helping to safeguard the quality of our fragile environment.

- Make sure your boat and its engines are in good working order – regularly check seals, gaskets, hoses and connections for leaks and drips. This will help to prevent oily waste from being discharged overboard via automatic bilge pumps.
- Take care when filling your fuel tank to avoid spillage into the water. If you overfill your fuel tank, wipe the spill up immediately with a rag. Do not hose the fuel into the water.
- If you are flushing your fuel tank make sure fuel does not enter the water. Dispose of the old fuel responsibly. Preferably have it done professionally.



- Install a holding tank (on small craft this could be as simple as using a portable caravan/camping toilet). Dispose of holding tank contents at waste receiving facilities at boat ramps and marinas.
- Limit the amount of water you use in sinks and showers. Use low sudsing or non-phosphate biodegradable soaps.
- Wipe cooking utensils and plates clean with a paper towel before washing up.
- Take care where you anchor and avoid seagrass beds as these are important fish habitats.
- Travel at speeds that avoid excessive wash which may cause bank erosion, disturbance to sensitive river or seabed environments, or annoyance or danger to others.
- Keep your bilges clean to prevent pollutants being discharged overboard. Use an absorbent pad in the bilge to clean up oily water and always dispose of the absorbents appropriately.
- Understand and obey the restrictions for engine noise and amplified music that apply to your type of vessel. Consider noise in relation to the time and area in which you are boating.
- Prevent the spread of exotic aquatic weeds such as caulerpa taxifolia. Remove all plant fragments from trailers, props, anchors, ropes, chains and fishing tackle. Collect all pieces in a plastic bag, seal it and put the bag in the bin.
- Collect all your rubbish on board and dispose of it properly ashore – this includes cigarette butts.
- Where possible, remove your boat from the water and always clean it where debris can be captured and disposed of properly.



- When your boat is being scraped or sanded, use a vacuum sander or place a drop sheet underneath to catch paint scrapings and dust – dispose of these carefully.
- When painting your boat's hull, use the right paint for the job and be sure to carefully follow the application instructions. Check with a marine painting professional to determine if there are alternatives and choose the most environmentally friendly products.
- Remember, polluting is an offence. This includes littering, spilling fuel or chemicals and inappropriately discharging sewage.

**Tread softly.
Take only memories.
Leave nothing behind.**