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SUBMISSION

to the

Western Australian Legislative Council

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Inquiry into the Impact of the Demersal Fishing Ban in Western Australia

Prepared and submitted by

BOATING WA

(Boating Western Australia Inc.)

The peak representative body for recreational boating in Western Australia

July 2026

Front cover photo courtesy of Paul Nicholls

Executive Summary

Boating WA is the peak body representing the interests of Western Australia's more than 100,000 registered recreational boat owners. While Boating WA does not represent fishing interests directly, boating and fishing are deeply intertwined pursuits. Many boat owners' fish from their vessels, and many people buy a boat specifically to access demersal fish in the West coast Bioregion. Boating WA works closely with Recfishwest, the peak body for recreational fishing, given the substantial overlap in the values, interests and membership of our respective communities.

This submission responds to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs' Inquiry into the Impact of the Demersal Fishing Ban in Western Australia. Boating WA broadly supports the position put forward in Recfishwest's submission to this Inquiry and does not seek to duplicate the detailed fisheries science and management analysis that Recfishwest, as the recognised peak body for recreational fishing has provided in their submission.

Instead, this submission uses the Inquiry as an opportunity to raise broader, related concern that Boating WA considers directly relevant to the Committee's Terms of Reference: the absence of a clear, whole-of-government policy that appropriately values boating and fishing together as pursuits enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of West Australians, and the pattern of under-investment and under-consultation that results from that absence.

On balance, Boating WA supports the Government's decision to close the West Coast Bioregion to boat based recreational demersal fishing for 20 months. The decision prioritises recreational and charter access to a limited public resource ahead of commercial extraction, and there was genuine opportunity for the community to have its say, including through DPIRD's 'Have your say' survey, completed by 2,314 people, the three most commonly raised themes from the survey included spawning closures, revised bag, boat and possession limits, and reduced commercial catches. All three of these themes were substantially addressed by the Government's December 2025 announcement.

However, Boating WA's own experience of engaging with the Department of Transport, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation, and other agencies on issues affecting boating is that government departments too often develop policy in a vacuum, manage rather than invest in boating, and treat peak bodies such as Boating WA as an afterthought rather than a genuine co-management partner. Boating WA considers that the same want of a clear, contemporary policy direction identified in relation to fisheries management applies with equal, if not greater, force to boating in Western Australia, and that this Inquiry provides a timely opportunity for the Committee to recommend a genuinely wholistic approach to marine estate planning that captures both fishing and boating.

About Boating WA

Boating WA (Boating Western Australia Inc.) is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation and the recognised peak body representing the interests of Western Australia's recreational boating community. For close to three decades Boating WA has worked to represent the common interests of ordinary boat owners bringing together people interested sailing, power boating, personal watercraft and fishing to provide a central voice for boaters in matters affecting the safety, accessibility and enjoyment of boating in this State.

Boating WA advocates on behalf of the more than 100,000 West Australians who hold a recreational boat licence, encourages the development of appropriate boating facilities and infrastructure, and represents the views of the boating community to Government and regulatory bodies, including the Department of Transport, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation.

Boating WA works closely with Recfishwest given the significant crossover between the boating and fishing communities: many boaters fish, and many people who take up fishing subsequently become boat owners. While Recfishwest represents the interests of recreational fishers (both boat based and shore based), Boating WA represents the interests of recreational boating in all its forms.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Boating WA receives no recurrent government funding, despite boaters paying the government tens of millions of dollars each year in boat licence fees, trailer registrations, mooring fees and other boating-related charges. Boating WA has previously and repeatedly requested that Government allocate a modest 1% of annual boat licence fee revenue to Boating WA, comparable to the funding relationship Recfishwest holds with Government through recreational fishing licence revenue, in order to properly resource the advice, advocacy and community education Boating WA provides. To date this request has not been supported and no compelling reasons for objection to such a modest proposal have been provided.

1. Introduction and Context

Boating and fishing are closely linked pursuits. Many boaters enjoy fishing, and a significant proportion of Western Australia's more than 100,000 registered boat owners purchased their vessel specifically to access the State's fishing grounds including for demersal fish. For this reason, decisions affecting recreational fishing access, such as the West Coast demersal closure considered by this Inquiry, are of direct interest to Boating WA and its members, even though Boating WA is not the peak body responsible for recreational fisheries advocacy.

The West Coast demersal issue received significant public attention following the release of the 2025 stock assessments. Boating WA observed, along with many of our members, considerable confusion in the community about what Government was communicating about the science underpinning the decision, particularly in relation to pink snapper. This advice which did not necessarily reflect what people were seeing on the water. In Boating WA's view, communication from DPIRD and Government on this issue could have been considerably clearer. By contrast, communication from Recfishwest answered the practical questions boaters and fishers had, rather than simply repeating the message Government wanted the community to hear. Boating WA considers this contrast instructive, and returns to it in Section 2(c) below.

There were genuine opportunities for public comment on the proposed management response, including through DPIRD's 'Have your say' survey, which was completed by 2,314 people. The three most commonly raised themes from that survey were spawning closures (24%), revised bag, boat and possession limits (18.8%), and reduced commercial catches (18.4%). The Government's December 2025 announcement effectively addressed each of these three themes.

On balance, Boating WA supports the Government's decision. It prioritises the West Coast Bioregion for recreational and charter access ahead of commercial extraction, placing the interests of the public ahead of private commercial profit. There was genuine opportunity for the community to participate in the process that led to this decision, and Boating WA supports the position put by Recfishwest, as the peak body for recreational fishing, in its submission to this Inquiry.

Boating WA also acknowledges that the science underpinning demersal fish stock management is not settled, but agrees it represents the best available evidence, and the best basis on which Government can currently make decisions. Government's difficulty in communicating this science in a way that matched the community's own observations demonstrates the value of independent, community-based peak bodies such as Recfishwest and Boating WA, who are trusted messengers and, in Boating WA's experience, considerably more effective than government departments themselves at communicating with the community they serve. Whether it is the Department of Biodiversity, conservation and attractions talking about marine parks, the Department of Transport talking about boating safety, or the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation talking about boating and water sports government departments have a track record of telling the community what the government wants them to hear rather than answering the questions they have.

2. Response to the Terms of Reference

2(a) The need for a clear, long-term plan for sustainable fisheries that supports all fishing stakeholders

Boating WA agrees with the need identified in the Terms of Reference for a clear, long-term plan for sustainable fisheries that supports all fishing stakeholders. In Boating WA's view, this need is a symptom of a broader gap: the absence of any government policy that appropriately values boating (not just fishing) as a whole.

Boating is one of Western Australia's most popular and accessible recreational pursuits, yet it does not receive the consideration it deserves in government planning. Boaters pay tens of millions of dollars annually in boat licence fees alone, in addition to trailer registration costs, mooring fees and other boating-related charges, yet what boaters receive in return does not reflect the substantial social and economic benefits boating provides to individuals, families, communities, regional tourism and the wider WA economy.

As a not-for-profit peak body, Boating WA receives no assistance from Government, despite repeated request including a formal written request to Premier Cook in February 2025 that just 1% of annual boat licence fees be allocated to Boating WA to assist with representing the interests of the boating community. This is a modest ask relative to the tens of millions of dollars in fees collected each year, and would allow Boating WA to continue providing consolidated, quality advice and feedback to Government on issues affecting boaters, much as Recfishwest is supported through a funding relationship linked to recreational fishing licence revenue WA Boaters deserve representation given the millions of dollars they provide to the state each year.

Boating WA considers that a clear policy direction from Government articulating the value Government places on recreational boating and fishing together is required to ensure government departments engage with peak bodies such as Boating WA in good faith, rather than continuing to pay lip service to our advice and requests. Recfishwest and the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) have both, in different ways, called for a form of Oceans or Fisheries planning policy. WAFIC's own submission on demersal management, in Boating WA's view, was substantially weakened by a series of underdeveloped proposals targeting recreational fishing access that offered little constructive value. Nonetheless, Boating WA agrees with their underlying call for a genuine, whole-of-government Oceans planning policy.

Such a policy could also, for the first time, progress a statewide network of overnight moorings for travelling boaters something Boating WA has called for over many years without success and would

give government departments and project proponents clear guidance for designing developments and infrastructure projects in ways compatible with community boating and fishing values.

Boating WA's recent dealings with Government illustrate the cost of not having such a policy. Fishing from the Fremantle Traffic Bridge is a recognised social heritage value under the Statement of Significance supporting the bridge's inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places. Main Roads committed, through its EPA referral, to mitigating and minimising impacts on the bridge's heritage values (including fishing) yet, the current bridge replacement project does not include a dedicated fishing platform, and to date there has been insufficient mitigation of the impact on this recognised heritage value, notwithstanding Boating WA writing directly to the Minister for Heritage on the issue. Separately, Boating WA raised concerns about parking arrangements near the HMAS Leeuwin Barracks precinct with the Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport, only to be advised the matter was one for the Town of East Fremantle to resolve, and that the responsible Minister had no legislative authority to intervene.

In both cases, Boating WA's experience has been that no individual Minister or department considers it their responsibility to resolve issues affecting boaters and fishers, and matters are left in the "too hard" basket. Today's young fishers casting a line from the Fremantle Traffic Bridge are tomorrow's boat owners, and issues of this kind small in isolation, but symptomatic of a wider pattern matter a great deal to Boating WA and its members. A clear, whole-of-government boating and fishing policy would give departments and proponents a shared reference point, and a reminder that the public service exists to serve the public, not simply to make their own work easier.

2(b) The impact of marine parks, renewable energy developments, seismic blasting, illegal fishing, shark depredation and other contemporary challenges on fish stocks and access

Boating WA is not best placed to comment in detail on the fisheries science underpinning marine park zoning, seismic approvals or shark depredation, and defers to Recfishwest's submission on these matters. Boating WA's interest in this term of reference lies principally in the way these same processes affect boating access, amenity and safety, and the broader pattern of how Government engages the boating and fishing communities in managing them.

Good public policy reflects community values, and is well supported as a result. When policy is instead applied in a way that suits the convenience of the regulator rather than the community it serves, it becomes perverted, and confidence in it erodes. Boating WA has seen this occur repeatedly in marine park planning. Boating WA supports marine parks in principle, but has observed that marine park management plans in WA are rarely updated to reflect changing community attitudes, and their static, ageing zoning rules continue to cause confusion for boaters on the water. For example, in some areas when a boat is moored overnight it is prohibited to catch a fish for dinner, a simple activity that poses no measurable risk to biodiversity or conservation but remains prohibited due to an inflexible approach to management.

Recfishwest has developed a mobile phone application allowing fishers to check whether they can fish within marine parks, filling a gap that, in most other Australian jurisdictions, government itself fills. Boating WA questions why WA's marine regulators continue to rely on not-for-profit organisations such as Recfishwest and Boating WA to deliver the basic tools and information Government should itself be providing, without providing those organisations with the resources to do so. Recfishwest holds a funding relationship that channels a share of recreational fishing licence

revenue to support this work; Boating WA has made comparable requests in relation to recreational boating licence revenue, without success or explanation.

More broadly, Boating WA's experience is that government departments responsible for managing the marine estate are more interested in managing and controlling boating than in investing in and improving it. Government appears more interested in progressing sea plane landing arrangements at Rottnest Island than in keeping boaters safe; more interested in developing marine industrial precincts in Cockburn sound than in protecting important boating areas; more interested in imposing restrictive lease arrangements on boating clubs than in helping those clubs grow; and, too often, more interested in finding reasons not to invest in boating than in actually improving it. For example, the Ocean Reef Marina development represents more than \$272 million dollars of government investment, yet will not deliver a single additional public boat ramp. Similarly, despite the AUKUS submarine base and Westport port developments being well advanced, there remains no clarity for the boating community on how either project will affect boating access in the areas concerned.

Boating WA notes the call, reflected elsewhere in submissions to this Inquiry, for a broader Oceans planning policy. Whatever its merits or shortcomings in a purely fisheries context, Boating WA considers such a policy would only genuinely serve the community's interests if it also captured boating access, amenity and safety alongside fishing and conservation values, rather than treating boating as incidental to broader marine estate planning.

2(c) Whether the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is adequately resourced to meet its responsibilities

Boating WA notes that DPIRD does not always appear to prioritise its funding and resourcing in a manner commensurate with the value provided by fishing, and considers the same observation applies equally to the departments responsible for boating in Western Australia, principally the Department of Transport, and, since the recent addition of the Sport and Recreation portfolio, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation.

In Boating WA's experience, the Department of Transport pays lip service to Western Australia's boating community: policy is too often developed in a vacuum, management arrangements are reviewed without genuinely engaging those affected, and advice or requests from Boating WA that the department does not want to hear are too often simply set aside.

This pattern extends to the highest levels of government. Boating WA wrote directly to the Premier in February 2025 requesting that just 1% of boat licence fees be allocated to support Boating WA's work; that request has not been supported. Boating WA also wrote to the Minister for Transport, Sport and Recreation on her appointment to the Sport and Recreation portfolio in March 2025, congratulating her and requesting an opportunity to meet. Boating WA raises this only to illustrate a broader point: in the many months since that letter was sent, Boating WA, the peak body representing more than 100,000 recreational boat owners across the State, has still not secured a meeting with the Minister. This speaks volumes about the priority boating is genuinely given and, in Boating WA's respectful view, this is simply not good enough.

Ultimately, Boating WA considers this reflects a broader failure of Government to provide departments with clear direction as to whether, and how much, it values Western Australia's boating community. Departments understandably take their priorities from the direction set by their Ministers and the executive of government. Where that direction is absent or unclear, boating will continue to

be treated as a lower order concern relative to its true social and economic value, regardless of the good intentions of individual officers within these departments.

3. Conclusion and Recommendations

On balance, Boating WA supports the Government's decision to close the West Coast Bioregion to boat based recreational demersal fishing for 20 months. The decision prioritises recreational access and optimises the return to the Western Australian community from the use of a limited public resource, while leaving considerable ongoing opportunity for commercial demersal fishing in other bioregions. Boating WA agrees with, and supports, the detailed submission put forward by Recfishwest, as the peak body for recreational fishing, in its submission to this Inquiry.

This type of decision-making, prioritising the public's interest in a shared public resource is the right approach, and Boating WA considers it should also be reflected more broadly across other areas of government responsibility affecting the boating and fishing communities. Boating WA has a long track record of working constructively with Government, particularly the Department of Transport, to improve outcomes for boaters. In recent years, however, Boating WA's experience is that departments have become more interested in telling than listening, and in demanding compliance than in genuine conversation. This needs to change.

Boating WA urges the Committee to consider the following recommendations in its report:

That Government develop and progress a contemporary, whole-of-government marine estate policy whether as a stand-alone Boating Policy or as part of a broader Oceans or Fisheries Policy. Such as policy would provide clear direction to DPIRD, the Department of Transport, DBCA and other relevant agencies, as well as to development proponents, on the value Government places on recreational boating.

That Government commit to funding Boating WA, as the recognised peak body for recreational boating, through an allocation of at least 1% of annual recreational boat licence fee revenue, consistent with other established funding relationship the government has with peak bodies.

That Government progress a statewide network of overnight moorings for travelling boaters.

That Main Roads and the Minister for Heritage ensure the Fremantle Traffic Bridge replacement project includes a dedicated fishing platform, consistent with Main Roads' own EPA referral commitments to mitigate and minimise impacts on the bridge's recognised heritage values.

That marine park management plans be reviewed and updated on their statutory ten-year cycle as a matter of course, including to remove outdated provisions that unnecessarily restrict on-water boating and fishing amenity.

That Government provide the boating and fishing communities with clarity on how the AUKUS submarine base and Westport port developments will affect boating and fishing access, well ahead of these projects proceeding to public comment periods allowing the community an understanding of how they will be impacted.

That the Department of Transport's resourcing, strategic planning and community engagement practices in respect of recreational boating be reviewed, to ensure they properly reflect the substantial social and economic contribution of boating to Western Australia.

Boating WA thanks the Committee for the opportunity to contribute to this Inquiry, and welcomes the opportunity to provide further evidence, including in person, should that assist the Committee's deliberations. Should the Committee require any further information on anything contained in this submission or on other issues related to recreational boating we would be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely



Colin Lockley

PRESIDENT

Boating Western Australia Inc.



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BoatingWA (BWA) 2026/27

Dear Boating WA Member,

As we prepare for another boating season, your Team at BoatingWA has continued working hard to ensure that your interests, safety and enjoyment on the water are properly represented and safeguarded.

During the past season we have:

- *Met six times with the Department of Transport and Marine Infrastructure, raising issues that directly affect Recreational Boaters throughout WA.*
- *Attended two meeting with the Rottnest Island Authority/Board. Working tensure that jetties, moorings, and directional markers are accurate, safe and ready for your use.*
- *Participated in the Recreational Boating Funding scheme, Helping direct approximately \$2.7 Mil into boating infrastructure and safety of WA recreational Boaters.*
- *Negotiated Boating Insurance arrangements with Club Marine, providing members with access to competitive boating insurance options.*
- *Developed purchasing benefits and Member Discounts, including on all retail products – including savings available through participating chandlers and boating suppliers.*

These are just some of the ways your membership helps Boating WA speak up for you!

Your Membership makes a difference!

There is only one association dedicated to representing the views, safety and amenity of Recreational Boaters across Western Australia – BoatingWA!

When you renew your membership, you are not simply paying a subscription. You are helping to maintain a strong independent voice for WA Boat Owners and Recreational Boaters when decisions are being made by government and other authorities. We encourage you to renew your membership for the coming season and continue to be part of the BoatingWA Team.

Your membership application/renewal is attached. Thank you for your continued support. Together we can help ensure that Western Australia remains a great place to enjoy safe accessible and enjoyable boating.

Safe boating – and we look forward to seeing you on the water in the coming season.

Colin Lockley

President Boating Western Australia Inc.

BECOME OR REMAIN A BOATINGWA MEMBER



Protecting Our Privilege

Bring Back Summer! Why Now Is the Perfect Time to Get Your Boat Ready

By Boating Western Australia

If there is one thing that unites Western Australian boaters in the middle of winter, it is this simple thought:

“Bring back summer.”

The cold mornings, persistent rain, and grey skies have a way of making the boat look less like a gateway to adventure and more like an expensive outdoor storage unit. It is tempting to throw another cover over it, close the shed door, and promise yourself you will deal with it when the weather warms up.

That is usually when the trouble starts.

Every year, the first warm weekends of spring produce a familiar procession at boat ramps across Perth and regional WA. Flat batteries. Stale fuel. Corroded terminals. Jammed trailer brakes. Seized winches. Bilge pumps that worked perfectly “last season.”

The unfortunate reality is that boats do not improve while sitting idle through winter. The good news is that right now is the ideal time to get ahead of the summer rush.

Winter Is Maintenance Season

Think of winter as the boating equivalent of the off-season in sport. The successful summer starts long before the first 30-degree day arrives.

A few hours spent now can save an entire weekend later, particularly when marine workshops and trailer repairers become heavily booked as spring approaches.

Start with the basics:

- **Battery:** Charge it fully, test its condition, and clean the terminals.
- **Fuel system:** Check hoses for cracking, replace old primer bulbs, and consider fresh fuel if the tank has been sitting for months.
- **Safety gear:** Inspect lifejackets, flares, fire extinguishers, and the first-aid kit.
- **Trailer:** Check wheel bearings, tyres, lights, brakes, and the condition of the winch strap.
- **Hull and fittings:** Look for loose bolts, corrosion, damaged seals, or anything that could become a bigger problem later.

None of these jobs are glamorous, but they are the difference between a relaxing day on the water and an embarrassing afternoon waiting for a tow.

The Reward Waiting for Us

The accompanying photographs are a timely reminder of what we are working towards.

Head into Claisebrook Cove for lunch, or to Garden Island for a bbq and a swim, the photos remind us why we bought a boat in the first place.



In WA, those opportunities can arrive suddenly. A cold, windy week is often followed by a spectacular calm weekend that has every boater reaching for the boat keys.

Protecting Our Privilege Starts at Home

Well-maintained boats are safer boats. Safe boats create fewer incidents, fewer rescues, fewer breakdowns blocking ramps and waterways, and fewer complaints about irresponsible boating behaviour.

When the public sees orderly ramps, considerate skippers, and boats that are clearly cared for, it reinforces the idea that recreational boating is a responsible and valuable part of Western Australian life.

Looking after your boat is not just a matter of protecting your investment. It is part of protecting boating's reputation.

A Simple Winter Challenge

Before the end of this month, give yourself a straightforward challenge:

Spend one hour with your boat.

Make a list. Check the battery. Inspect the trailer. Replace one worn item. Book the service if it is due.

You do not need to complete everything in a single weekend. The important thing is to start now, while there is still time to fix problems properly rather than hurriedly.

Because summer will return. The first warm morning will arrive, the Swan River will beckon, the ocean will sparkle, and someone will send a text saying, "Want to go for a run in the boat?"

When that happens, the best answer is not:

"I need to fix a few things first."

It is:

"I'll be there in twenty minutes."



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Deadline nears for parachute flare phase out

September marks the end of a three-year phase out of parachute flares as recognised safety equipment on the water in WA

Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure Manager Safety Education Laurie Adams is urging skippers to act now to ensure they comply in advance of the deadline.

“Major changes to safety equipment requirements were announced in 2023 with the aim of simplifying the laws and making better use of the available technology,” Mr Adams said.

The changes gave skippers the option of carrying an Electronic Visual Distress Signal (EVDS) rather than flares, when using a GPS-enabled Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) in unprotected waters more than 400 metres from shore.

To simplify requirements skippers were also put on notice that from 1 September 2026 only red and orange handheld flares would be accepted and the use of parachute flares was being phased out.

Mr Adams said there had been a strong uptake of EVDS in lieu of carrying flares because of the associated benefits including no expiry date, longer seven-hour operation time, ability to float and general ease of use over flares.

“We’re hopeful that the change will translate to improved safety compliance rates on the water with DTMI checks showing flares or EVDS compliance steady at 87 per cent between 2024-25 and 2025-26,” Mr Adams said.

“More pleasing was that EPIRB or PLB compliance rose from 95 per cent in 2024-25 to 96 per cent in 2025-26, while overall safety equipment compliance remained unchanged at 96 per cent in both years.

“Skippers are also being reminded of the need to dispose of old, non-compliant flares responsibly. Out-of-date or unserviceable flares should not be put in general rubbish because they can be dangerous and pose a fire risk.”

Approved DTMI disposal centres are listed on our [website](#).

Skippers should also be mindful of further upcoming deadlines for upgrades to safety gear including having a GPS-enabled EPIRB or PLB and a VHF radio by 1 September 2028. [Find out more here](#).





Great Southern

Advice: Navigational Aid Replacement – Albany Port

Mariners are advised that works to replace the following navigational aids within Albany Port will be undertaken from 3 August to 28 August 2026.

Works will occur Monday to Saturday between 7:00am and 5:00pm subject to daylight, weather, and sea conditions. Works will be staged so that one navigational aid is fully replaced before moving to the next.

Coordinates for each location are provided below for reference:

- Nav Aid 4: 35°2.155 S, 117°55.821 E
- Nav Aid 16: 35°2.204 S, 117°53.365 E
- Rushy Point Lead: 35°3.048 S, 117°52.300 E
- Quararup Front Lead: 35°2.665 S, 117°54.453 E
- Quararup Rear Lead: 35°2.757 S, 117°54.642 E
- Nav Aid 12 (Jacks): 35°2.775 S, 117°54.270 E
- Nav Aid 12A: 35°2.775 S, 117°53.782 E

Temporary yellow flashing buoys will be placed around work areas at Nav Aid 12A and Nav Aid 12 (Jacks), Rushy Point Front Lead, and Quararup Front and Rear Leads.

Divers will be working in and around the work area. All dive vessels will display the international code flag "A" whilst diving operations are in progress.

All vessels taking part in these works will display lights and shapes in accordance with the Prevention of Collisions in State Waters Regulations 1983 at all times.

Operators will monitor Marine VHF Channel 12 through the duration of the works.

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times, keep a safe distance and reduce speed and wake around the works, follow all temporary markers and signage, and comply with directions from site personnel as required.

Chart reference: WA1083 - Albany

Location: -35: 2.6475'S 117: 54.0055'E

Start date: 3/8/2026

End date: 28/8/2026

Issued: 3/8/2026

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Perth

Advice: Marine Survey Operations – Cockburn Sound

Mariners are advised that marine survey operations will be undertaken at the following locations within Cockburn Sound from 17 August to 23 August 2026. Operations will occur during daylight hours, weather permitting:

Area 1

- 32°03.9579'S, 115°40.6194'E
- 32°03.9486'S, 115°43.4566'E
- 32°07.3183'S, 115°40.6528'E
- 32°07.2950'S, 115°43.9966'E

Area 2

- 32°02.2016'S, 115°29.3860'E
- 32°02.2851'S, 115°36.6917'E

- 32°06.2600'S, 115°29.3193'E
- 32°06.3437'S, 115°36.6306'E

Area 3

- 31°51.4926'S, 115°27.1884'E
- 31°51.5766'S, 115°31.5138'E
- 31°57.7058'S, 115°27.0838'E
- 31°57.7585'S, 115°31.4785'E

The survey will be conducted from 25-metre fishing vessel 'North Cape' which will be towing subsea survey equipment extending approximately 100 metres astern and 40 metres on either side. The vessel may require additional sea room to safely alter course or speed.

All vessels involved in these works will display the appropriate lights and shapes in accordance with the Prevention of Collisions in State Waters Regulations 1983.

Operators will monitor Marine VHF Channel 16 at all times.

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout and navigate with caution in the vicinity and provide adequate clearance to the survey vessel and its towed equipment.

Chart reference: WA001 - Ocean Reef to Cape Peron

Location: -32: 01.5120'S 115: 34.8348'E

Start date: 17/8/2026

End date: 23/8/2026

Issued: 13/8/2026

Advice: South Perth Foreshore Works – Swan River

Mariners are advised that works will be conducted along the foreshore from Coode Street Jetty to the flagpole (Sir James Mitchell Park) South Perth, from 12 August 2026 to 12 October 2026.

A 1m high silt curtain will be installed in the water just adjacent to the construction area, commencing approximately 130 metres west of Coode Street Jetty and extending approximately 128 metres west along the foreshore. The silt curtain will not extend into the river further than the Coode Street Jetty.

Works will be conducted between Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7pm.

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times and proceed with caution when navigating in this area.

Chart reference: WA898 - Swan and Canning Rivers

Location: -31: 58.4539'S 115: 51.7225'E

Start date: 12/8/2026

End date: 12/10/2026

Issued: 3/8/2026



Fuel Jetty Upgrade – Temporary Fuel Service Disruptions

Published On: August 12, 2026

The Fuel Jetty upgrade is progressing, with the Club's 35-year-old fuel bowzers now removed in preparation for installation of the new systems on Thursday 13 August.

Fuel Availability

Monday 10 August – Friday 14 August

Currently unavailable:

- Premium Unleaded 95 (PULP 95)
- Premium Unleaded 98 (PULP 98)
- Standard Diesel

Available:

- High Flow Diesel

Following installation of the new systems, tank testing and bowser calibration will be carried out, with full fuel services expected to be restored for the weekend of 15–16 August.

Works remain weather dependent and subject to successful testing and commissioning. We'll continue to keep members updated on progress and confirm once full fuel services have been restored.

Parking & Berthing

The Fuel and Service Jetty will remain open for vessel berthing throughout the works.

Please note that parking at the end of the Fuel Jetty will remain restricted while the fuel tanks are tested and reconfigured for the new bowser installation.

We appreciate your patience and understanding while these important works are completed and look forward to providing an upgraded fuelling facility for members and visiting vessels.

BOATYARD INTRODUCES VESSEL ENCAPSULATION OPTION

With the Boatyard heading into a busy period and shed availability becoming limited, vessel encapsulation is now available as an alternative option for certain maintenance and refit projects.

Using scaffolding and protective wrapping, vessels can be enclosed to provide a sheltered and contained work environment similar to a shed.

This option is available upon request and subject to Boatyard Management approval, depending on project requirements and resource availability.



For more information or to discuss whether vessel encapsulation may be suitable for your project, contact the Boatyard Office on 9435 8853 or submit a Boatyard Booking [Enquiry online](#).



The Great Guinness Takeover has Arrived

As the weather cools down, we've got the perfect excuse to head to the Club.

Launched Friday 7 August, the Great Guinness Takeover is bringing together two iconic brands, Guinness and Fussy Meats, for the ultimate winter warmer 🍷

🍷 Fussy Meats Guinness Pie (served with mash, peas & gravy) – \$25

🍷 Guinness Pints – \$10 every Friday

🍷 Pie + Pint Combo – \$35, available all day, every day



Dear Members,

At close of Committee nominations, we wish to advise all positions were filled and we won't be going to a vote.

The structure of your committee will be formally announced by the Returning Officer at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 27th August 6.30pm upstairs in the main hall.

We encourage all full members to attend the Annual General Meeting and share in the updates.

Full Members are also warmly invited to attend Full Members Night on Friday 21st August from 6.00pm in the Ken Maguire Bar.

Light food and drinks will be provided, so please confirm your attendance with Reception to assist us with catering numbers.

We look forward to seeing you at both events.

Father's Day at Swan Yacht Club

Celebrate Dad with us this Father's Day! ❤️

We've planned a fantastic day filled with delicious food, drinks and live entertainment to make Dad feel extra special.

Bring the whole family down, raise a glass to Dad and enjoy a relaxing afternoon by the river.

🍷 BBQ Lunch | 12pm–3pm

Members: \$35pp

Guests: \$40pp

Children 6–11: \$17.50pp

Under 5s: Eat free!



Bunbury Yacht Club

Find us on 

EMAIL: byc_365@outlook.com

MAIL: Post Office Box 1351 Bunbury 6231



Who We Are

We are one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in Australia formed in 1882.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S CATAMARAN EXPERTS

Specialising in the new Fountaine Pajot
sailing range and quality brokerage listings

THINKING ABOUT SELLING?
CONTACT US FOR A FREE VALUATION

Our New Yacht brands



FOUNTAIN PAJOT
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DUFOUR
— SUSTAINABLE LUXURY —



LIAQ
LUXURY YACHTS



VEVA



THE
YACHT
SALES
CO.

Contact our WA Team:
David & Bev Smale: +61 417 175 186

info@yachtsalesco.com
YACHTSALESCO.COM



Each winter, whales return to the waters surrounding Wadjemup, creating one of the island's most spectacular natural sights. Keep an eye on the horizon during your ferry journey or from the coastal lookouts and you might spot a breach or tail slap. Discover the [best places to watch](#) this season.

See More With a Guided Tour

With cooler days, quieter trails and plenty to discover, winter is the perfect time to explore on a [guided tour](#). Whether on land, sea or in the air, local guides share stories of the island's history, wildlife and natural beauty



Wild State Weekender

29 - 31 August

Reset and recharge on a three-day guided experience featuring coastal hikes with The Hike Collective, shared meals and a two-night stay at Samphire.



Pickleball Getaway

11 - 13 September

Enjoy a weekend of pickleball, island adventures and good company. Choose from a three-day package including ferry transfers, accommodation and meals, or join the fun with a day pass

Grants available to expand boating infrastructure

A further \$2.25 million in funding from the Cook Labor Government is available this year for public boating facility improvements and new projects as part of the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme (RBFS).

- Applications now open for round 31 of the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme
- Up to \$2.25 million available for boating facility improvements or new projects
- To date scheme has seen more than \$56 million allocated to eligible projects
- Seven projects spanning the State were supported under the previous round

A further \$2.25 million in funding from the Cook Labor Government is available this year for public boating facility improvements and new projects as part of the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme (RBFS).

Since 1998, RBFS has funded 485 projects worth almost \$57 million, helping expand and improve boating infrastructure throughout Western Australia.

Recreational boating enthusiasts throughout WA are now being urged to discuss ideas for new and improved facilities with local managers as submissions open for round 31 of the RBFS.

Eligible authorities, including local governments, government agencies and statutory authorities with responsibility for managing public facilities used for boating have until 24 September 2026 to apply for funding.

Funds are available for the planning, construction or upgrade of boat launching ramps, jetties, moorings, breakwaters and new channels directly related to a public recreational boating facility. Land based infrastructure at public boating facilities, such as trailer parking areas, toilets and boating signage are also eligible.

Up to 75 per cent of the cost of a project is available, with the maximum grant set at \$750,000.

Round 30 provided seven projects a share of more than \$2 million, supporting projects such as a replacement jetty at the Monkey Mia boat ramp, two fish clearing stations at the Exmouth Boat Harbour and a new toilet block at Peaceful Bay.

Application forms and more information are available at www.transport.wa.gov.au/rbfs

Comments attributed to Minister Assisting the Transport and Major Infrastructure Minister John Carey:

"For nearly 30 years, these grants have been supporting Western Australia's recreational boating enthusiasts, delivering the infrastructure they need to make the most of our vast coastline and extensive waterways.

"I encourage recreational boat owners to discuss project proposals with their local facility manager."

- **Yacht Grot adds a new level of service for BoatingWA Members!**

Roger and his Team at Yacht Grot have been serving BoatingWA Members (individually) for around 30 years – with every conceivable boating part and accessory.

To formalise our partnership, Roger is offering an individual discount to BoatingWA members on the production of their membership card.

It will not take the form of a set discount, as every item in stock has a different margin on it. It will be up to you to ask Roger and the Yacht Grot team – What is my BoatingWA price?

Discounts will vary on the item – but discounts are discounts, and the store that as given our members the best service and prices for this long – it will certainly be worth producing your BoatingWA Membership card.

Introduce yourself to Roger and the Yacht Grot team - and enjoy the expertise and old world values that Yacht Grot has to offer.

Roger even has an extensive amount of used antique equipment. Might not be useful on your boat, but it sure will look great in your bar!

Get down to Yacht Grot and get yourself a great price on great equipment.



Yacht Grot

57 Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle, WA 6160

T: +61 8 9430 6766

E: info@yachtgrot.com.au

<https://yachtgrot.com.au/>



Joint media statement - New Fremantle Traffic Bridge to Open Before End of the Year

The Albanese and Cook Labor Governments have today confirmed construction of the new Fremantle Traffic Bridge is progressing ahead of schedule, with the project on track to fully open to road users later this year.



The Albanese and Cook Labor Governments have today confirmed construction of the new Fremantle Traffic Bridge is progressing ahead of schedule, with the project on track to fully open to road users later this year.

The old Fremantle Traffic Bridge was closed on 1 February, with the closure originally expected to continue for up to 12 months and the new bridge earmarked to open in the first half of 2027.

Despite a challenging construction environment, demolition of the old bridge is now complete, and construction of the new bridge continues to make strong progress.

Through a carefully considered methodology, the old timber traffic bridge was able to be removed whilst construction on the new bridge was taking place.

The new bridge's concrete deck has been completed, with barriers to separate the road and shared paths currently being installed.

Works will soon begin to complete the new road across the bridge including priming, sealing, and asphaltting.

All four bridge towers are fully visible, with scaffolding removed and construction cranes on both sides of the bridge expected to be demobilised later this month.

Terracing works are also underway on the southern side of the bridge close to Beach Street, which will form a key part of the bridge's urban landscaping strategy and provide a public space for the local community to enjoy.

The old bridge has been successfully removed from the river, with four rows of timber on the northern side retained to acknowledge the old bridge's heritage.

This has delivered a wider, safer navigational channel for commercial and recreational river users, including ferries passing under the bridge.

The project team will also reinstate the Canning Highway and Queen Victoria Street intersection, undertake drainage works, and progress with landscaping and urban design activities on both sides of the crossing.

Following bridge opening, various local intersections which were modified to support the closure will be reinstated.

The new Fremantle Traffic Bridge will be Australia's first extradosed bridge, combining both cantilevers and cable stay supports.

It will feature two lanes in each direction and new wider shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

A community event will be held to mark the opening of the new bridge with the date and details to be announced in the coming months.



Media release

30 July 2026

Annual pink snapper spawning closure from 1 August

Land-based recreational fishers are reminded that the annual pink snapper spawning closure for Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds commences on 1 August.

Each year pink snapper gather in the Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds to breed over several months with peaks in spawning activity linked to both water temperature and lunar cycles over the spring and summer months.

The annual closure is an important measure to protect aggregating pink snapper when they are most vulnerable and runs through until 31 January 2027.

Fishers are also reminded that the entire West Coast region from Kalbarri to Augusta is currently closed to boat-based demersal fishing as part of the stock recovery measures.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Principal Fisheries Management Officer Shane Walters said seasonal closures were a vital management tool used to protect fish populations during spawning periods.

“It is important that fishers abide by the spawning closure to help rebuild pink snapper stocks to a sustainable level,” Mr Walters said.

“Fisheries and Marine Officers will continue to be out and about talking to fishers to make sure they were aware of the spawning closures as well as the broader West Coast region closure.”

Mr Walters said recreational fishers were encouraged to visit their local tackle shop for advice on diversifying their fishing experiences to target alternative sustainable species such as tuna, samsonfish, whiting and squid during the closures.

“Fishers who hold a current Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence can claim up to \$50 for the purchase of fishing gear through a participating WA independent tackle store as part of the Tackle Shope Rebate Program,” he said.

Recreational fishers can check to see if seasonal closures or restrictions are in place via the [fishing rules](#) website.

More information the Tackle Shop Rebate Program is available on the [DPIRD website](#).

Media release

12 August 2026

Fishers breaching regulations at Lake Quallilup

Fisheries officers with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development are conducting regular patrols at Lake Quallilup on the WA South Coast to protect black bream from illegal fishing.

Lake Quallilup is part of a nature reserve east of Esperance, highly popular for recreational fishing for black bream (*Acanthopagrus butcheri*).

The daily bag limit for black bream is six per person with a minimum size limit of 250mm. Bream below the minimum size are totally protected and it is an offence to take or be in possession of undersize fish.

Since January this year, DPIRD fisheries patrols at Lake Quallilup have resulted in a number of apprehensions of fishers exceeding the daily bag limit and taking undersize bream. In total, 11 infringements and four warnings have been issued.

An apprehension in early June detected four fishers in possession of 66 black bream including 46 below the minimum size limit. The catch was seized and the group was issued \$2,200 dollars in fines.

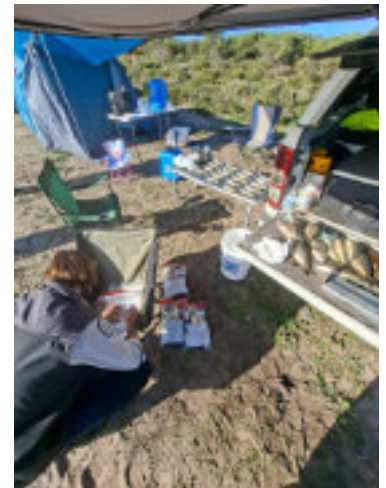
Esperance Supervising Fisheries and Marine Officer Charles Kavanagh said Lake Quallilup was a highly valued fishing area by the local and wider community and patrols were focused on ensuring bream populations remained sustainable.

“The fishing rules are designed to protect the sustainability of black bream and offenders who take more fish than permitted or take undersize fish are putting this popular fishing experience at risk,” Mr Kavanagh added.

“Size limits allow fish to reach maturity to complete their breeding cycle, so we urge all fishers to know the rules, measure their fish and return any undersize or excess fish alive to the water.

“Lake Quallilup is also unique in being a land-locked saltwater body, meaning local bream populations can’t naturally recruit from other estuaries along the coast. This creates a greater risk to the sustainability of these bream from illegal fishing practices.

“We urge all members of the community to report illegal fishing activity to [FishWatch](#) on **1800 815 507**. Recreational fishers can check to see if seasonal closures or restrictions are in place via the [fishing rules](#) website.”



- DPIRD fisheries officers checking black bream catch at Lake Quallilup.

New Shoprite Member Benefits App

shoprite.com.au

Our friends at ShopRite have developed a new member benefits mobile app to make it easier for members to access their benefits, save not only money but also time.

The app will be replacing the cards currently sent out to members.

You will need to create a ShopRite digital account, using your BWA member number. If you don't know your number, please contact our secretary at secretary@boatingwa.com.au

How do I create a ShopRite digital account? Its simple!

1. If you do not have an account, go to "Sign In or Register", found at the top of the page, and enter the required information.



Dear BoatingWA Members ... Explore your endless discounts and benefits!



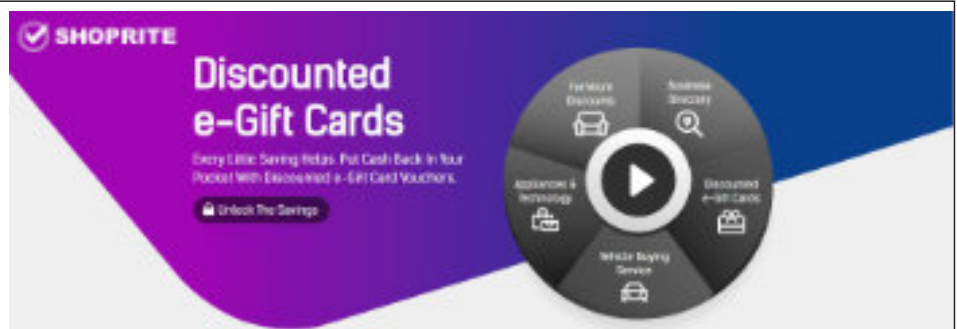
Are you aware that your BoatingWA membership gets you other great benefits outside of representing your interests and the interests of your fellow recreational boaters?

As a member of BoatingWA, you qualify to use Shoprite exclusive Benefits Service. All deals are negotiated on your behalf!

Visit the Shoprite Website to access discounts on a large range of suppliers <https://www.shoprite.com.au/>

The Shoprite team have been working hard and negotiating to secure more benefits and special deals for members. Our most recent additional benefit is Discounted eGift Cards.

Here are some of the brands below:



- Woolworths
- Coles
- JB HiFi
- Retravision
- Harvey Norman
- Good Guys
- Ticketmaster

- Barbecues Galore
- BCF
- David Jones
- Ray's Outdoors
- Red Balloon
- Priceline
- Myer

- Kathmandu
- Flight Centre
- EB Games
- Endota Spa
- BWS
- Dan Murphys
- BigW and **many more.**

The Shoprite team are currently in talks with many new businesses who are most eager to join their network and offer preferential discounts to members. Watch this space!

www.shoprite.com.au



Rock wall ‘seeded’ with 20 tonnes of Byssal mussels in Cockburn Sound pilot project

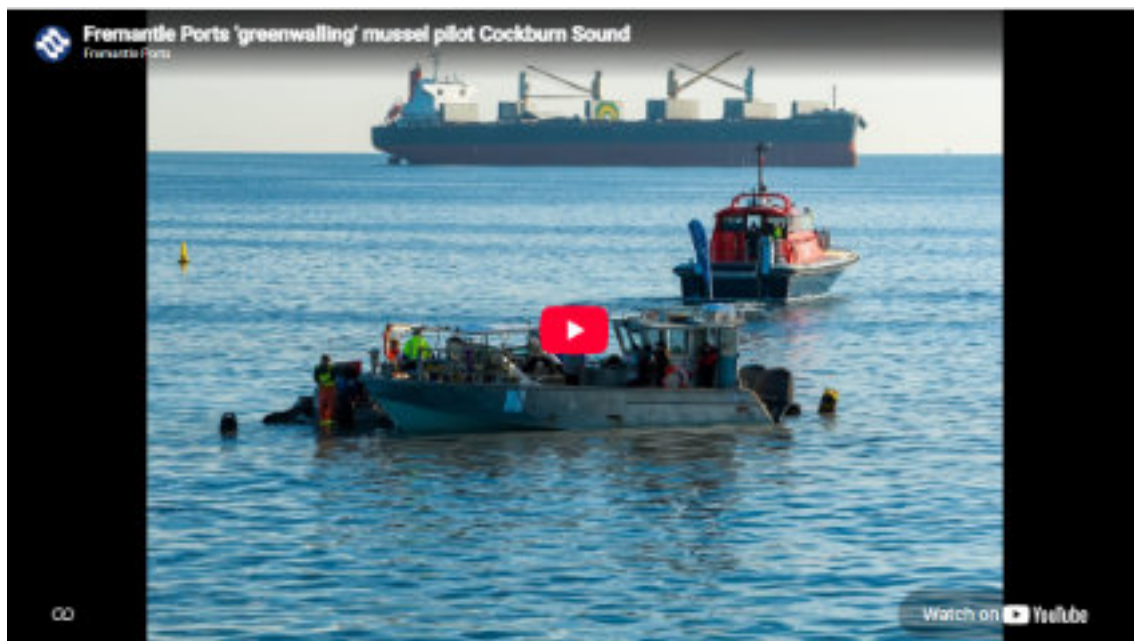
July 21, 2026

As part of a new pilot project, 20 tonnes of Byssal grown mussels have been transferred onto a nearby Cockburn Sound rock wall to explore opportunities to extend the farm’s environmental impact.

Working in partnership with Fremantle Ports and Development WA, around 770,000 mussels were removed from the farm’s growing lines and redistributed onto a rock wall at the Australian Marine Complex Common User Facility in Henderson.

Once attached, the mussels are expected to create a thriving habitat and food source for fish, squid and crabs, extending the ecological benefits already being delivered by Byssal’s mussel farm. The mussels will also play an important biofiltration role, filtering over 73 litres of sea water per mussel each day.

Check out this great video from Fremantle Ports to see how the process works.



Recfishwest is proud to support the project as one of [Byssal’s four founding partners](#), backing a practical, science-based solution that strengthens fish habitat and helps secure better fishing in Cockburn Sound.

The long-term vision is to scale up the mussel farm and restore marine habitat on a much larger scale, boosting fish productivity and helping underpin great fishing in one of Western Australia's most important fishing locations.

Find out more about Recfishwest's involvement in the Byssal initiative in the video below.



Boating WA Members

Westport would like to advise Boating WA that the public tender for the design package for two proposed artificial reef sites was released yesterday.

Westport is also distributing the attached information pack to relevant stakeholders and community contacts to outline the proposed reef locations and invite feedback on the proposal.

Please feel free to share the information pack with your members. Feedback can be provided directly to Westport via the environment email address included in the pack.

Regards

Westport Environment Team

[Download information pack in PDF](#)

USEFUL LINKS

- **Major Projects Rottnest Island**

Click: <https://ria.wa.gov.au/major-projects>

- **Boating on Rottnest Island**

Click: <http://www.rottnestisland.com/boating>

- **Rottnest – Temporary Notice to Mariners**

<http://www.rottnestisland.com/boating/boating-information/temporary-notice-to-mariners>

- **Rottnest Marine News**

<https://mailchi.mp/rottnestisland/latest-rottnest-island-authority-marine-news?e=0a6b7000a1>

- **Garden Island Fishing and Aquatic Association GIFAA**

Click: <http://www.gifaa.com.au/>

- **TEMPORARY NOTICES TO MARINERS LINK**

[Click Here](#)

- **TIDE PREDICTIONS LINKS**

For general tidal predictions around WA: [Click Here](#)

Tide Tables for Western Australia: [Click Here](#)

For 2021 Fremantle tidal predictions: [Click Here to Download](#)

- **FSC DIVERS GROUP**

This is a page to showcase the comings, goings and doings of the Dive Section at Fremantle Sailing Club.
More info: [Click Here](#)

- **BOATING COMMUNITIES NEWSLETTER**

Stay up to date with the latest news relating to recreational boating in Western Australia through the Department of Transport's Boating Communities Newsletter. [CLICK HERE](#)

Other useful links

ShopRite – <http://www.shoprte.com.au/>

River Guardians – <http://www.riverguardians.com/>

Fremantle Sailing Club News – <http://www.fsc.com.au/home/latest-news-information/>

Swan Yacht Club News – <http://www.swanyachtclub.com.au/news/>

Bunbury Yacht Club: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Bunbury-Yacht-Club-100067325569262/>

Perth Game Fishing Club News – <http://www.pgfc.com.au/news>

BoatingWA does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the material included from a third party, it's the responsibility of the members to do further investigation into the subject before relying on its accuracy especially when it comes to boat regulations, safety and navigation.



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