



POLICY NO.	CPPR1
POLICY TITLE	Watercraft Storage on Foreshore and Public Lands Policy
STATUS	Council
SERVICE	Works and Services
DOCUMENT ID	286041

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to regulate and control the storage of Watercraft on foreshore and public land areas within the Hunter's Hill Council (**Council**) local government area, and to provide for a system of permits authorising certain property to be left in a public place pursuant to section 37(4)(b) of the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 (PSUP Act)*.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to any person who stores or seeks storage of a Watercraft in public place and authorises the storage of Watercraft at a Watercraft Storage Area provided by the Council on the foreshore and public land areas of the municipality subject to the granting of a valid Permit.

3. DEFINITIONS

Bay: Means an allocated storage space at a Watercraft Storage Area or Designated Watercraft Storage Area.

Permit: Means a permit issued by Council and obtained by a Watercraft owner after completing a Water Craft Permit Form, as evidence of authority to store a Watercraft at a Watercraft Storage Area pursuant to section 37(4)(b) of the PSUP Act.

Waiting List: Means a waiting list maintained by the Council for persons that have expressed an interest in securing a Permit to store a Watercraft at a Watercraft Storage Area.

Watercraft: Means any single hull Watercraft no longer than 3.5m in length, and includes a dinghy, tender, kayak, canoe and the like.

Watercraft Storage areas: Means Council defined areas where Watercraft are permitted to be stored. Such areas may, be provided with a constructed storage facility.

Refer to POLICY GUIDELINES (Section 4.3 – 2 for a list of WATERCRAFT STORAGE Areas)

4. POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Background

The foreshore public open space areas around Sydney Harbour are limited and under high demand for a wide variety of passive and active recreational activities. Informal, ad-hoc and unauthorised Watercraft storage can among other things negatively impact visual amenity, be potentially dangerous, and alienate and restrict public access to and enjoyment of, public foreshore areas.

In some locations Council will install and maintain purpose-built Watercraft Storage Areas to aid in the management of Watercraft.

4.2 Objectives

The Council will manage the storage of Watercraft on public land for the benefit of Watercraft owners, and for the convenience and enjoyment of the broader community accessing Council foreshore parks and public lands.

The objectives of this policy are:

- To provide for the orderly storage of Watercraft in Council's Watercraft Storage Areas;
- To ensure that all Watercraft Storage Areas operate in an efficient manner and are maintained correctly;
- To ensure that all Watercraft owners adhere to the Terms and Conditions for the use of Watercraft Storage Areas;
- To establish a compliance and enforcement framework pursuant to which unattended, derelict or unlawfully stored Watercraft will be removed by Council from foreshore areas where they constitute a hazard, cause damage to the environment, or are a nuisance to foreshore areas, in accordance with the PSUP Act and *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Regulation 2022 (PSUP Regulation)*; and
- To provide a policy framework that establishes the circumstances in which Watercraft without a valid Permit will be removed from Council foreshore parks and public lands in accordance with the PSUP Act.

4.3 Policy Guidelines

1. DERELICT, UNATTENDED OR UNLAWFULLY STORED WATERCRAFT

Watercraft stored on the foreshore not under the direct control or supervision of the responsible person and without a valid permit will be removed in accordance with the requirements of the PSUP Act, where Council considers that the unattended Watercraft causes adverse impacts, interferes with the public amenity or public access, poses a risk to persons, animals or the environment, or any other reason specified in the PSUP Act or PSUP Regulation.

Watercraft that are *unattended*, as defined by the PSUP Act, may be taken into possession by Council in accordance with the PSUP Act. Council may conduct inspections of the foreshore and public land areas of the municipality at regular intervals for the purposes of potentially removing unattended Watercraft in accordance with the PSUP Act and PSUP Regulation.

All Watercraft will be held by Council at a secure location and may be disposed of in accordance with the PSUP Act and PSUP Regulation.

Proof of ownership is required for release of any Watercraft taken into the possession of Council. Payment of a release fee will be required in accordance with Council's Fees & Charges.

2. WATERCRAFT STORAGE AREAS

Council has made areas available for the storage of Watercraft, where members of the public may hire a Bay for a fee, as set in [Hunter's Hill Council's Fees and Charges](#).

Any person seeking to store a Watercraft at a Watercraft Storage Area must obtain and hold a valid Permit by completing a [Water Craft Permit Form](#) and obtaining a Permit.

3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE OF WATERCRAFT STORAGE FACILITIES

Terms and Conditions of use at the Watercraft Storage Area are specified in the Watercraft Permit Form and include, but are not limited to the following terms and conditions (**Terms and Conditions**):

- Council accepts no liability or responsibility for loss, damage or theft of a Watercraft stored at a Watercraft Storage Area;
- The Permit allows the storage of only one Watercraft per allocated Bay at a Watercraft Storage Area;
- The maximum permissible length for Watercraft stored at a Watercraft Storage Area is 3.5m and this maximum must not be exceeded;
- Council must be notified within seven (7) days by a permit holder of their intention to dispose of a Watercraft, or that storage of a Watercraft at a Watercraft Storage Area is no longer required;
- The permit holder must notify Council within seven (7) days of a change of address or contact details. If contact cannot be made with the permit holder, the agreement may be terminated;
- Council reserves the right to terminate the permit if any of the relevant conditions are breached, or if the permit holder misuses the Watercraft Storage Area in any way;
- A Watercraft permit sticker must be firmly affixed to the outside of the Watercraft in such a manner as to be clearly visible. Watercraft are to be stored on the racks provided by Council at a Watercraft Storage Area;
- Lost or damaged permits must be reported to Council as soon as possible;
- Permits must not be transferred, sold to another person or duplicated. If permits are used in contravention of the conditions of issue or fraudulently, the Council may withdraw the permit.

4. ISSUE OF ANNUAL PERMIT STICKERS

A Permit renewal notice will be forwarded to all current permit holders annually. Each Permit holder will be required to:

- Pay the annual fee within the allocated time; and
- If the fee is not paid within the allocated time, the storage bay may be reallocated to the next person on the Waiting List.

5. WATERCRAFT PERMIT STICKERS

Annual permit stickers for Watercraft Storage shall be made available to both residents and non-residents that have obtained a Permit for storing of Watercraft, on the following basis:

- Permits shall be in the form of stickers for attachment to the outside of the Watercraft, firmly affixed and in a clearly visible location; and
- Permits once attached to a Watercraft will allow the owner to store the vessel for the current year in accordance with the prescribed Terms and Conditions.

6. WAITING LISTS FOR STORAGE OF WATERCRAFT

The procedure for obtaining a permit for a Council Watercraft Storage Area is as follows:

- The [Water Craft Permit Form](#) is to be completed and returned to Council;
- Once Council receives the completed Watercraft Permit Form, the applicant will be placed on a waiting list for the Watercraft Storage Area specified on the Watercraft Permit form;
- When a Bay becomes available, Council will notify the applicant for a Permit and raise an invoice for the appropriate Permit.

7. WATERCRAFT WITHOUT CURRENT PERMIT STICKER/ IN BREACH OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS/ UNATTENDED

Watercraft that:

- Do not display a valid Permit sticker; or
- Are in breach of the terms and conditions of the relevant Permit (including but not limited to a breach of the maximum length of the Watercraft); and
- Are otherwise determined to be unattended for the purposes of the PSUP Act and PSUP Regulation, may be taken into possession by Council or otherwise dealt with by Council in accordance with the PSUP Act and PSUP Regulation.

If Watercraft are not claimed by the owner after being taken into possession by Council, Council may dispose of the Watercraft, in accordance with PSUP Act.

8. FEES & CHARGES – WATERCRAFT

Please refer to [Hunter’s Hill Council’s Fees and Charges](#) for more information.

5. RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES

- Code of Conduct
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy
- Work Health and Safety Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures

6. POLICY AUTHORITY

This Policy is owned by the General Manager/Director Infrastructure & Environmental Sustainability of Hunters Hill Council.

7. REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed in 2027 or with any changes to relevant legislation or Council policy.

Next review date is: July 2027

8. ADOPTED BY COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE:

DATE: 29 July 2024

RESOLUTION NO: 083/24

9. VERSION CONTROL TABLE

DATE	VERSION	RES. NO.	KEY CHANGES	AUTHOR
14 June 2005	1.0	214/05	Adoption of Policy	Manager W&I
21 March 2017	1.1	Approved by General Manager	Minor update to new policy format	Wendy McGuirk
29 July 2024	2.0	083/24	Minor update to new policy format	Hugh Peebles