

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed draft ACT National Lake Ordinance. We have read and reviewed the document. Whilst we have overall agreement with the intent and purpose of the Ordinance, we believe there are a number of areas that may impact our sailing activities on the lake and we suggest a few minor alterations to mitigate that.

The sailing club runs many competitions and training sessions where power boats need to be close to sailing boats. All competitions and training sessions conducted by the sailing club have safety power boats accompanying the competition and training sailing boats. We believe the definition of accompanied sailing boat needs to change to recognise that, as per the following.

5 Definitions

accompanied sailing boat means a boat that:

- (a) has a sail; and
- (b) is engaged in a training session organised by a sports club or school; and
- (c) is accompanied by a power-driven boat capable of being used for rescue purposes;

Change (b) to read

(b) is engaged in a training *or competition* session organised by a sports club or school; and

.....

Anchoring a buoy in a lake occurs during sail training and competitions. This Ordinance will restrict the operations of sailing clubs conducting sail training or competitions with a requirement to anchor temporary buoys to mark out a course for any sail training or competitions in West Basin. We believe that an additional subsection needs to be added to recognise that, as per the following.

17 Buoys, wharves and jetties

- (3) A person commits an offence of strict liability if:
 - (a) the person anchors a buoy in a lake; and
 - (b) the anchoring has not been approved by the Minister.

Add a further subsection (c)

(c) unless the person is anchoring a temporary buoy for a sailing club for the purpose of sail training or competition

.....

Speed limit exceptions.

Most rescues on Lake Burley Griffin are presently performed by the sailing club rescue boats due to the diminished availability of the AFP. There are regularly occasions where these rescue boats need to exceed 10kts to safely perform these duties (eg, getting to a capsized dinghy or injured person in the water). We recommend that a limited number of sailing club

rescue boats, in our case the four RIBs specifically designed for rescue work, be certified and signed accordingly to exceed this speed limit for short periods of time in the performance of rescue operations. We believe an additional subsection needs to be added to allow this.

31 Power boats operated under 10 knots

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person is authorised under this section to operate a power boat on a lake if:
 - (a) the power boat is operated at a speed of less than 10 knots; and

Add a further subsection (c)

(c) unless the powerboat is a safety boat operated by a sailing club when going to the assistance of a boat or person in the water.



Additionally, we are concerned by this proposed Ordinance with the apparent allowance of any person to drive any powerboat on the lake. This raises safety concerns with us by these powerboat users causing interference with sail training and competitions and operating powerboats at an unsafe speed close to sailing boats. Is this the intent of this Ordinance?

I trust that these comments and suggestions are useful in ensuring the Ordinance is fit for the purpose of continued use of the lake by sporting clubs.

Dr. Ron Thompson

Commodore

YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club