

Central Coast Council

Watercraft Storage on Public Land Policy



Date Adopted: 05/11/2024
Revision: 2

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1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1. The objectives of this Policy are to:
 - 1.1.1. Effectively manage the storage of watercraft on Council owned or managed land in the Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA).
 - 1.1.2. Outline Council's management approach to abandoned, derelict and unauthorised watercraft on Council owned or managed land.
 - 1.1.3. For many decades, watercraft has been permitted to be stored on public land. This activity will continue to be permitted, where lawful, and in accordance with this policy.
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2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to both residents and visitors to the Central Coast who store watercraft on public land in the Central Coast LGA.
 - 2.2. This policy covers personnel employed by Council; any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council; and any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities.
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3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. Council supports the storage of watercraft on waterfront public land under the condition that the watercraft is not unauthorised, abandoned or derelict.
 - 3.2. In some cases, watercraft storage can cause conflict between multiple users of public land as well as pose risks to public safety and the natural environment. Council will manage the storage of watercraft on public land for the benefit of both the watercraft owners and the broader community who access public land.
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4. Enforcement

- 4.1. Council officers can investigate and conduct audits on derelict, abandoned or unauthorised vessels stored on public land at any time.
 - 4.2. Derelict abandoned or unauthorised vessels may be removed and impounded or disposed of by Council as per the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021*.
 - 4.3. Impoundment or disposal of derelict abandoned or unauthorised vessels will be undertaken if the identified watercraft has not been claimed after 15 days of the inspection date (sticker placed on watercraft with date).
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5. Responsibilities

Compliance, monitoring and review

- 5.1. The Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and continuous improvement of this Policy.
- 5.2. This Policy will be reviewed regularly to evaluate its continuing effectiveness and relevance.
- 5.3. Council authorised officers will enforce the provisions of the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021*, the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Roads Act 1993*.

Reporting

- 5.4. No additional reporting is required.

Records management

- 5.5. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this protocol in accordance with Council's [Information and Records Management Policy](#).
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6. Policy Definitions

Abandoned vessel	means watercraft stored on public land which appears to be un-owned and remains unclaimed after an official Council notice is placed on the vessel.
Act	means the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW).
Council	means Central Coast Council.
Derelict vessel	means watercraft stored on public land which appears to be unseaworthy by evidence of damage which may affect vessel flotation and user safety.
Public Land	means any community land, and/or Crown Land reserves where Council is the Crown land Manager including beaches, foreshores, estuaries, informal passive reserves and active recreation areas.
Unauthorised vessel	means any watercraft stored on public land that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Inappropriately stored at storage facilities▪ Anchored to vegetation and/or a Council asset that is not provided for that purpose such as: fencing, signage posts, stormwater treatment zone, stormwater outlet, drainage channel▪ Directly affecting foreshore riparian vegetation
Watercraft	means any single or multi-hulled marine vessel, a medium/large trailable vessel, catamaran, sailboard, jet-ski, surfboard, work punt,

	pontoon, sailboat, rowing skull, inflatable boat, canoe, kayak and the like up to a maximum length of 3.0 metres.
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7. Policy Administration

Business Group	Community and Recreation Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Open Space and Recreation
Associated Procedure (if any, reference document(s) number(s))	Nil
Policy Review Date	Four years from date of adoption unless legislated otherwise
File Number / Document Number	D16322023
Relevant Legislation (reference specific sections)	<p>This Policy supports Council's compliance with the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021</i> ▪ <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i> ▪ <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ▪ <i>Roads Act 1993</i>
Link to Community Strategic Plan	<p>Theme 5: Liveable</p> <p>Goal L: Healthy lifestyle for a growing community</p> <p>B-B4: Activate spaces and places to complement activity around town centres, foreshores, lakes and green spaces for families, community and visitors.</p>
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents (reference document numbers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information and Records Management Policy ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Delegations Register

8. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
N/A	Manage the storage of watercraft on public land in the Central Coast LGA	Environmental Compliance Services

9. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	8 July 2020 Chief Executive Officer	Policy adopted
2	5 November 2024 Director, Community & Recreation Services	Updated into new template, minor amendments