

Question on Notice

No. 590

Asked on 21 April 2005

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS) –

QUESTION:

With reference to expired boating safety flares which must be disposed of correctly – with fines and so on in place and as his department's website mentions places in different regions, and the new Guide to Recreational Boating and Fishing in Queensland has these places mentioned in it and apparently in some instances fire stations or police stations take them, but this is not publicised and as it is the first time the new issue of the Guide to Recreational Boating and Fishing has mentioned flare disposal – and the new marine sewage legislation –

Will he ensure that these issues are more widely publicised and covered in other publications and will he ensure uniformity in regard to all police stations taking them, or all fire stations and so on?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

Flare disposal locations

This issue has been extensively advertised in boating and fishing magazines and regional newspapers since the middle of 2000. Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) has been proactive in encouraging the ongoing expansion of this disposal system through the provision of wheelie bins to participating Volunteer Marine Rescue and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Boating and Fisheries Patrol offices, and Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices.

Current campaigns at regional boat shows and events focus on the expiry dates of safety equipment. A tactic presently employed is the innovation of giving a sticker to vessel owners regarding the expiry dates of both flares and EPIRBs. Maritime Safety Queensland has issued these to its regional offices, Boating and Fisheries Patrol offices, Water Police offices, and they have been made available to the public at the "Tinnie and Tackle Show" and the "Sanctuary Cove Boat Show". The stickers are issued by MSQ officers and enforcement officers to vessel owners. Training Providers are advising all newly trained boaties of the current procedure and disposal sites as contained in the Guide to Recreational Boating and Fishing in Queensland and on Maritime Safety Queensland's website.

I am advised that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has also issued a sticker relating to the collection and disposal of Explosives, Ammunition, Fireworks and Flares. This is available at their regional offices and issued to the public on request.

Both the Police and Fire Brigade have stated that it is not their policy to continue providing this collection service for expired flares, so they have withdrawn from this activity. No information brochures or pamphlets were issued from these sites.

I am also advised that flare manufacturers provide a safety message regarding the correct disposal of flares directly in their advertising brochures; on the product in the enclosed flyer, and on the external packaging, where customers are directed to a network of authorised marine dealers or agents.

Those sites that have participated in this activity have been widely advertised in the following publications and online:-

- Online at www.msg.qld.gov.au showing various sites in five regional areas
- Coastwatch Publication's Beacon to Beacon Directory edition 4 (Dec 2000) p.16
- MSQ's Beacon to Beacon Directory edition 5 (Dec 2002) p.13
- Qld Recreational Boating Safety Handbook issue 13 (Sept 2000) p.24
- Qld Recreational Boating Safety Handbook issue 14 (Apr 2001) p.22
- Qld Recreational Boating Safety Handbook issue 15 (Jan 2002) p.24
- Qld Recreational Boating Safety Handbook issue 16 (Aug 2003) p.22
- Guide to Recreational Boating and Fishing in Qld issue 1 (Aug 2004) p.10, 11
- Guide to Recreational Boating and Fishing in Qld issue 2 (Mar 2005) p.23
- Qld Commercial and Fishing Ships Safety Handbook issue 6 (Nov 2004) p.23
- MSQ's magazine "Seascope" vol.2 issue 2 (Apr - Jun 2004) p.9
- The Boating Industry Association Queensland (BIAQ) Directory (Apr 2005) p.18

Marine sewage legislation

Vessel-sourced sewage legislative requirements commenced on 1 January 2004 to help minimise the likelihood of impacts from sewage generated onboard vessels. Further extensive onboard sewage management requirements commenced on 1 July 2004. The new requirements were developed following public consultation and discussions with key stakeholders.

The issue was extensively advertised in boating and fishing magazines, and regional newspapers from January 2004.

The promulgation of information to the public was made available in the form of a fact sheet, flyer, folded pamphlets and maps depicting restricted areas. This was distributed through a mail-out to all recreational and commercial vessel owners and by dissemination at regional seminars to the general public and commercial industry stakeholders. Both of these activities commenced over August and September 2004.

The information was also contained in the following publications:-

- MSQ's Beacon to Beacon Directory edition 6 (Aug 2004) p.16
- MSQ's Boating Safety Charts (2004 publications) contain sewage messages
- Guide to Recreational Boating and Fishing in Qld issue 2 (Mar 2005) p.57
- Qld Commercial and Fishing Ships Safety Handbook issue 6 (Nov 2004) p.59
- The official Tide Tables and Boating Safety Guide (Sept 2004) p.59, 97
- MSQ's magazine "Seascope" vol.1 issue 1 (Jan-Mar 2004) p.5
- MSQ's magazine "Seascope" vol.1 issue 2 (Apr-Jun 2004) p.5
- MSQ's magazine "Seascope" vol.1 issue 3 (Oct-Dec 2004) p.8
- MSQ's magazine "Seascope" vol.2 issue 2 (Apr - Jun 2004) p.8
- The Boating Industry Association Queensland (BIAQ) Directory (Apr 2005) p.19

This issue has also attracted extensive media coverage, drawing boaties attention to the new requirements.

Full details regarding sewage management issues can be found online at www.msg.qld.gov.au

Information availability

Information regarding the above topics is also freely available from Queensland Transport Customer Service Centres, Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol offices, Water Police stations, training providers, and marine dealers.