

Question on Notice

No. 56

Asked on 23 February 2022

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Gold Coast Waterways Authority's management of the Gold Coast's waterways and the Minister's responsibilities overseeing vessel registrations—

Will the Minister provide (reported separately by year for the last five years) any data outlining the number of (a) commercially registered vessels, (b) recreational registered boats and (c) recreational registered jet skis who use the waterways of the Gold Coast and (d) vessels which have been issued with infringements by the GCWA for overstaying or breaching buoy mooring, anchoring compliance or oil pollution regulations on the Gold Coast waterways?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bonney for the question.

- (a) This is a matter for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), as the national regulator responsible for the regulation of domestic commercial vessels under a single, national system.
- (b) The number of recreational registered boats, over the last five years, where a Gold Coast postcode or suburb has been recorded by a registrant are outlined in the table below.

Year	Number of registrations
2016	23,975
2017	24,581
2018	24,675
2019	24,800
2020	25,208
2021	26,251

It should be noted that while these numbers report vessels where a Gold Coast postcode or suburb has been recorded, use of the Gold Coast waterways by vessels outside of the Gold Coast is common.

- (c) Recreational registered jet skis, or personal watercraft, over the last five years, where a Gold Coast postcode or suburb has been recorded by a registrant are outlined in the table below.

Year	Number of registrations
2016	6357
2017	6877
2018	7423
2019	7941
2020	8525
2021	9398

It should be noted that while these numbers report vessels where a Gold Coast postcode or suburb has been recorded, use of the Gold Coast waterways by vessels outside of the Gold Coast is common.

- (d) Vessels that have been issued with infringements by the Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA) for overstaying or breaching buoy mooring, anchoring compliance or oil pollution regulations on the Gold Coast waterways are outlined in the following tables.

Buoy moorings

Year	Number of infringements
2017	Nil
2018	Nil
2019	Nil
2020	Nil
2021	Nil

Anchoring compliance

Year	Number of infringements
2017	1
2018	Nil
2019	Nil
2020	Nil
2021	Nil

GCWA does not usually issue infringements for buoy mooring offences or contraventions of anchoring restrictions. Rather, GCWA takes action for buoy moorings through directions and show cause notices, and issues 'removal notices' for those vessels that overstay anchoring rules. There are no fines associated with these kinds of compliance responses, however, there are requirements on the owner to pay costs associated with either buoy mooring or vessel removal, as deemed under relevant transport legislation.

GCWA Buoy Moorings

Year	Removal directions	Show cause notice
2017	3	Nil
2018	13	Nil
2019	Nil	1
2020	1	4
2021	Nil	3

Anchored vessels

Year	Removal notices
2017	64
2018	161
2019	137
2020	112
2021	114

Infringements issued in Gold Coast waterways for pollution regulations are outlined in the table below.

Year	Number of infringements
2017	2
2018	3
2019	Nil
2020	Nil
2021	Nil