Modernising regulations to make our waterways safer

6 March 2015

The Northern Territory Government is modernising the Recreational Vessel Regulations to enhance safety on the water.

Minister for Transport Peter Chandler said the updates to the regulations will ensure the public are using the latest technology and techniques while boating.

“The existing regulatory requirements were outdated and didn’t meet the needs of the current recreational boating community,” Mr Chandler said.

“These changes were made in consultation with Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the Northern Territory (AFANT) and the Water Police to ensure they were in line with the needs of the boating community.

“Our key priority is the safety of all Territorians and visitors who use our waterways, whether they are the owner, operator or passenger of a small vessel or swimming at the beach.

“The changes to the regulations will mean an improved level of compliance by boat operators, a better understanding and simplification of the requirements to comply with the regulations and the introduction of a Marine Infringement Notice Scheme (MINS).

“This scheme will act as a deterrent for non-compliance and reduce the cost and effort required by NT Water Police to prosecute any offenders under marine regulations.”

The changes to the regulations include:

• Introduction of Marine Infringement Notice Scheme (MINS)
• Fitting of Australian Builders Plate
• Mandatory registration of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)
• Modernisation of the current minimum safety gear requirements
• Simplifying the categories of waters in the NT

The policy will take effect on May 1, 2015.

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