

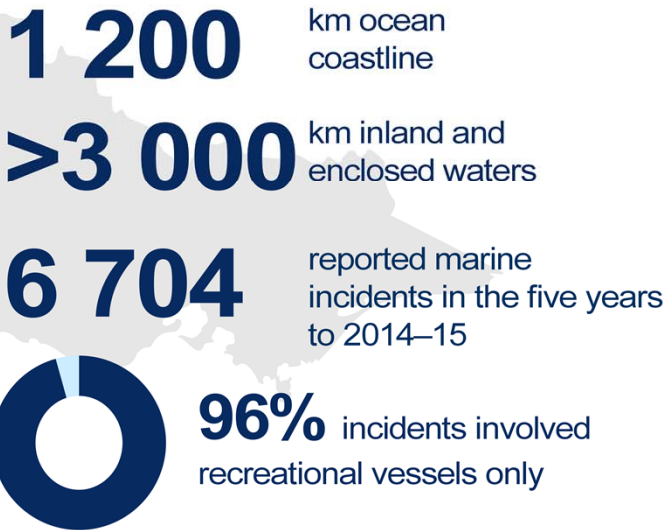
Follow up of Recreational Maritime Safety

Tabled 8 June 2016

This presentation provides an overview of the Victorian Auditor-General's report, *Follow up of Recreational Maritime Safety*.

About recreational maritime safety

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Maritime Safety Act 2010



Boat signs, aids to navigation, vessel and zone rules

This report is one of three follow-up audits we will table in 2015–16. It provides Parliament and the community with information about the improvements that Transport Safety Victoria (TSV) and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources (the department) have or have not made in relation to the audit recommendations in the 2014 audit *Recreational Maritime Safety*.

Findings from our 2014 audit



Regulatory framework not implemented efficiently or effectively



No assurance on effectiveness of regulatory approach



No assurance on competence and suitability of waterway managers



Waterway rules do not support efficient management of safety risks

Our 2014 audit found that the state's regulatory framework was not being effectively or efficiently implemented. Shortcomings included the absence of arrangements within TSV for assuring the effectiveness of its regulatory approach as well as the competence and ongoing suitability of waterway managers. In addition, longstanding waterway rules were not fit for purpose and did not support the efficient management of safety risks. The audit made 14 recommendations to improve recreational maritime safety.

Assuring marine safety

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Compliance with marine safety laws



Effectively promoting and enforcing compliance with marine safety laws is vital to assuring marine safety and the effective management of related risks. As Victoria's transport safety regulator, TSV must ensure that designated waterway managers are meeting their legislative obligations in helping to maintain public confidence in the marine safety system.

Role of Transport Safety Victoria (TSV)

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No explicit function under the Act to oversee waterway managers



Reliant on cooperation with waterway managers



Limited ability to take action

In spite of this responsibility, TSV has no explicit function under the Maritime Safety Act 2010 to oversee waterway managers. The Safety Director is reliant on the cooperation and capability of waterway managers in taking action on identified deficiencies. This limits the action TSV is able to take and this situation needs to be addressed.

Review of legislative framework

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Department of Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport & Resources reviewing
waterway governance

Opportunity to examine legislative
framework and address deficiencies

In January 2016 the department commenced a review of the governance of waterways in Victoria. This creates an opportunity to critically examine the legislative framework and address fundamental deficiencies in the regulatory scheme that were identified in our 2014 audit and remain unresolved.

Progress on implementing recommendations

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Despite commitment, agencies have been slow to action recommendations

Agencies need to:



drive and monitor
actions



ensure actions have
intended impact

Despite the department's and TSV's commitment to actioning our recommendations, progress has been slow. Both agencies need to continue to drive and closely monitor actions taken and planned, to ensure their intended impact on improving recreational maritime safety in Victoria is achieved.

For further information, please view the full report on our website: www.audit.vic.gov.au

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