

RECLAIM THE BEACH – STOP THE JET SKI MENACE

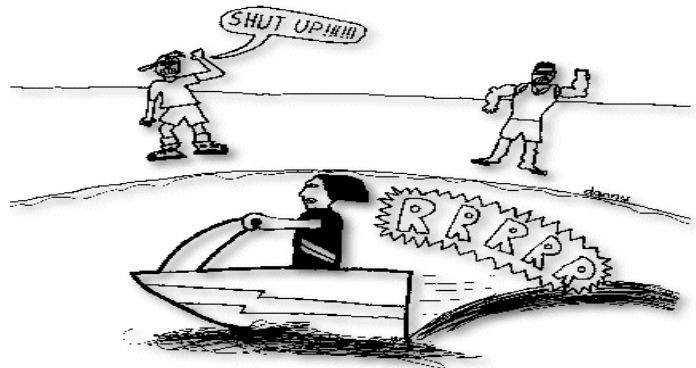
The increasing use of jet skis on the metropolitan coastline is damaging the quality of life, health and safety for everyone spending time on or near our beaches. The noise, fumes and pollution from just one of these vehicles can mar the peaceful enjoyment of hundreds of beach goers. Even more alarmingly, many of the users flout marine safety and council regulations by speeding near swimmers, canoists, jettys and the beach, and by landing and leaving from our beaches.



Noise, fumes... and danger

There is a common pattern of users launching at the West Beach boat ramp and coming up to Henley and Grange to meet their mates, refuel and open the esky, and then take turns to zoom out from the beach for a few aquatic burnouts. All should have boat licences, but many don't.

Getting the Department of Transport and Industry, the Police and Council to enforce the existing mish-mash of inadequate laws and regulations is very difficult. The **Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association (WACRA)** has had meetings with state MP, Paul Caica and with officers of the DTEI. It seems that they need more complaints if anything is to change. Ideally we would like to see jet-skis restricted to non-residential, non-recreational areas such as between the West Beach boat Ramp and Glenelg North or adjacent to Outer Harbor, or well offshore.



In the meantime we need to make it clear to government and bureaucracy that there is a problem. One fairly easy way to do this is to let them know when jet-skiers are in the area and breaking the rules. This means whenever jet-skis:

- are launched from or retrieved from the beach at any time - this includes coming in to pick up passengers or change operators

- travel at more than 4 knots (about brisk walking pace) within 200 metres of the shore, within 50 metres of any one in the water or within 30 metres of jetties. Marker buoys are to be placed off Henley jetty.
- are used without due care, and/or in a dangerous manner
- operators have a blood alcohol level of more than .05% (just as for driving a motor vehicle)

All jet skis must have a registration number – usually 2 letters and 3 numbers, in large black letters on the side. **If you see a jet ski breaking the rules take a note of:**

- the registration number
- the date, time and place
- details of the incident
- description of the operator – male/female, colour of clothing, life jacket
- if possible, registration numbers of vehicles or trailers
- names and contact details of any witnesses

Then notify Peter Thomas, Transport Safety Compliance at DTEI on 408 177 or:

- Call Charles Sturt Council Compliance Branch: 84081111 – An officer will be available from 9am-10pm weekdays and 9am-1pm weekends. After these hours you will be provided with specific call buttons. Or email ddunbar@charlessturt.sa.gov.au
- Call Paul Caica's office on 8353 1111, colton@parliament.sa.gov.au
- For speeding, dangerous or drunken operators call SA Police for attendance: 131444

Or you can also send a letter to the editor of the Messenger:

Letters to the Editor

PO Box 197 Port Adelaide 5015 letters@mng.newsltd.com.au

It's also a really good idea to keep a log of any complaints you make – just in case the authorities lose track of them. (It happens!) These pestilent toys have been banned on other metropolitan waterways including Sydney Harbour and the marine national parks around New York City. That only happened because people let their governments know there was a problem. Things will only change here if we make our selves heard above the whine and slap of a jet-ski ruining a summer afternoon.

This campaign has been initiated by the Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association but where it goes from here is up to you. **For more information contact** Paul Laris 83562274 email paul.laris@internode.on.net