



## Minister for Transport; Planning

Our ref: 72-23577

PERTH CORONERS COURT

10 MAR 2020

RECEIVED

Mr Michael Jenkin  
State Coroner  
Coroner's Court of Western Australia  
Level 10, Central Law Courts  
501 Hay Street  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Jenkin

### INQUEST INTO BOATING DEATHS

Thank you for the letter dated 6 January 2020 from Ms Dawn Wright of your office, which provided the Coroner's Findings and Record of Investigation into the death of Messrs Uock Pham, Justin O'Neill and Jacob Pham, and the suspected death of Tuan Pham.

I can advise that the Department of Transport (DoT) has instigated measures to implement both recommendations detailed in the Coroner's Findings. Specifically, DoT has commenced the following actions:

***Recommendation 1*** – *DoT consider including the '30 Second Challenge' in the practical assessment for people seeking a recreational skipper's ticket (RST).*

The current RST practical assessment involves the applicant demonstrating competency over 12 tasks. It is DoT's intention that following the successful conduct of the practical assessment, applicants will be required to attempt the 30 Second challenge. It is anticipated that this new requirement will be in place by the end of April 2020.

It should be noted that DoT has promoted the '30 Second Challenge' widely over the past seven months and it will continue to be a focus for the next 18 months as part of a Behaviour Change Education Strategy which uses statistical data to guide Maritime education and compliance efforts to reduce the number of incidents on WA waterways. So far in 2020, eight boat ramp events have been conducted and the initiative will feature at a further 12 planned educational events up until the end of April 2020. These events are promoted to the boating public using Facebook, DoT's website, key marine safety partners and the Boating Communities Newsletter.

**Recommendation 2** – DoT consider initiating a public awareness campaign using appropriate communication methods, including social media, to encourage all skippers of recreational boat users to wear lifejackets, to make safety equipment accessible, plan voyages taking account of impediments to safe navigation, and provide details of voyages to marine rescue services.

DoT is already undertaking significant work in respect to this recommendation and continues to employ a range of strategies to reinforce to skippers the importance of wearing lifejackets, and having serviceable and accessible safety equipment for themselves and their passengers. The importance of voyage planning, including logging on and off, also features prominently in DoT's current Behaviour Change Education Strategy.

To complement this messaging, DoT has recently partnered with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to promote the new Marine Rescue logo and to encourage skippers to log on and off with volunteer marine rescue groups. All recreational boat owners have also received a flyer with this advice with their vessel registration renewals over the past 12 months.

DoT is also in the process of developing a smart phone boating App for WA boaters. A key element of the App is the provision of current and forecast weather information specific to the location where the boater has connected to the App. Future planned improvements to the App also include a function to enable notifications to be pushed to skippers to advise them of weather warnings issued by the Bureau of Metrology.

I acknowledge that a copy of this response may be included in the Coroner's next Annual Report and made available on the Coroner's website.

Yours sincerely

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA**  
**MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

03 MAR 2020