

MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND REGULATORY REFORM, AND MINISTER FOR PORTS AND WATERWAYS

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2006-07 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2007-08 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Maritime Authority of New South Wales			
Total Expenses	93.5	106.5	14.0
Capital Expenditure	16.9	23.0	36.1
Total, Minister for Small Business and Regulatory Reform, and Minister for Ports and Waterways			
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In addition to the agency above, the Minister is also supported by the Department of State and Regional Development (Section 19) for the Small Business and Regulatory Reform portfolio area.

MARITIME AUTHORITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Maritime Authority of New South Wales regulates marine safety. This is achieved through encouraging a strong safety culture across all maritime activities. The Authority is also responsible for the management of its properties in Sydney Harbour, Botany Bay, Newcastle and Port Kembla.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

The Authority works towards a number of results for the community, including:

- ◆ Ports that support a growing economy.
- ◆ Safe and sustainable waterways.
- ◆ Improved infrastructure and access to waterways.

Key services provided by the Authority which contribute to these results include:

- ◆ providing advice to the Minister on maritime and port matters;
- ◆ regulating the safe navigation of recreational and commercial vessels;
- ◆ administering Port Safety Operating Licences at the major ports and managing the regional ports of Eden and Yamba;
- ◆ ensuring the protection of the environment in State waters; and
- ◆ managing vested maritime properties.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Authority's major recent achievements include:

- ◆ the remediation of Homebush Bay including the removal of hazardous debris from the Bay, with the total project costing \$21 million;
- ◆ the Manly Wharf upgrade which will improve passenger access and safety;
- ◆ reform of the ownership of all Sydney Harbour commuter wharves by their transfer to the Authority and the development of an integrated maintenance and capital plan; and
- ◆ development of the Rozelle Bay maritime precinct including the re-alignment of James Craig Road.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Authority is committed to working with all sectors of the boating community, maritime industry, government and the general community to strive for equity, safety and environmental sustainability in the use of our waterways.

The Authority has developed a number of strategies to meet this objective, including:

- ◆ reviewing the operation and audit mechanisms of the Port Safety Operating Licence;
- ◆ investigating maritime incidents to identify safety and compliance issues;
- ◆ coordinating Government policy with respect to maritime security for ports and for commercial vessels;

- ◆ providing input into port planning;
- ◆ providing safe commuter wharves;
- ◆ introducing a more rigorous recreational licence testing process;
- ◆ using the audit process to assist commercial operators to fully implement effective safety management systems; and
- ◆ developing a ten year Maritime Infrastructure Program.

Commercial strategies developed for the Authority's property assets are:

- ◆ completing the implementation of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal recommendations on rentals for private non-commercial wetland leases;
- ◆ introducing and implementing a revised commercial lease policy;
- ◆ developing a State-wide Boat Storage Strategy; and
- ◆ ongoing development of maritime precincts in Sydney Harbour.

2007-08 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2007-08 are expected to be \$106.5 million. This includes providing recreational boating functions involving the promotion of safety and environmental protection on the water through boat licences and registrations, patrols, contributions to volunteer marine rescue organisations, education programs, seminars, publications, compliance and enforcement activities.

Funds will be spent conducting commercial vessel surveys, providing environmental services in Sydney Harbour and Myall Lakes, navigation aid maintenance, accident investigation, wharf and building maintenance, construction of key waterway infrastructure as well as conducting safety audits of commuter wharves.

Capital Expenditure

The total capital program for 2007-08 is \$23 million. This includes the refurbishment of the commuter wharves and the relocation and replacement of Circular Quay Wharf 1 as well as various projects in the redevelopment of the Rozelle Bay Maritime Precinct.