

Ref: 1790-2026-BAE

Ms Emily Waldron
Customer Permits & Agreements Officer
Parks Victoria
Level 1, 65 Church St
MORWELL VIC 3840

PO Box 2392,
Melbourne Vic 3001
T 1800 638 802

Dear Emily

PROPOSED DECLARATION TO EXEMPT BOATING ACTIVITY

I refer to the application received by Parks Victoria (PV) for an exemption under the *Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic) (the Act)* and the waterway rules, to boating activity conducted by Williamstown Swimming and Lifesaving Club (WSLSC) on Sunday 1 March 2026 (back-up date 2 March 2026).

I have considered the application and your proposed declaration.

DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 204(2) OF THE MARINE SAFETY ACT

You are directed to amend the proposed draft declaration in the manner set out in the **attached** document. The draft declaration requires amendment to adjust conditions.

Please note that under section 204(4) of *the Act*, PV is required to comply with this direction.

PUBLISHING OF DECLARATION

I am hereby satisfied that PV has complied with section 203(6) of *the Act*, provided that PV

- Publishes the Declaration on their Internet site
- Public notices on site advising of activity prior to event date
- Publishes a Notice to Mariners
- Ensures WSLSC publishes Declaration on website/social media platforms and distributes to participants
- Ensures WSLSC reports an incident in relation to the exemptions should it occur, by way of notifying PV and Safe Transport Victoria (ST Vic) as soon as possible by email and completing an incident report sent to PV and ST Vic at waterways@safetransport.vic.gov.au within seven (7) days
- In the event of any injuries which result in hospitalisation, a fatality or an incident involving a person or vessel not involved in the event, these must be immediately reported to Victoria Police and incident report provided to ST Vic via email

I note from the documentation that a set aside has been established for this event under the Port Management Act. Please ensure that there are adequate water resources over and above rescue craft to appropriately monitor the set aside area and to, if necessary, enforce the set aside area.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Amanda Judd on 0436 915 136 or amanda.judd@safetransport.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Antonopoulos', written in a cursive style.

NICK ANTONOPOULOS
Senior Safety Assurance Officer
Safe Transport Victoria

10/02/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
DECLARATION OF BOATING ACTIVITY EXEMPTION

Parks Victoria as the declared waterway manager for the Local Port of Port Phillip, makes the following declaration under section 203(3) of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic).

For the purposes of boating activity conducted by Williamstown Swimming and Lifesaving Club, persons and vessels involved in the 2026 Williamstown Open Water WOW swim are exempt from the following requirements:

State Rules made under the *Marine Act 1988*

1. Clause 2(a) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a person in the water
2. Clause 2(c) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of another vessel
3. Clause 4(a) – must not exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of the water's edge
4. Clause 4(b) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a wharf, jetty, slipway, diving platform or boat ramp

Waterway Rules made under the *Marine Safety Act 2010* / *Marine Act 1988*

5. Clause 1.5.7 of Schedule 1 – 5 knot speed restriction zone within 200 metres of the waters' edge at Williamstown Beach
6. Clause 1.5.9(b) of Schedule 1 – areas prohibited to vessels off Williamstown Beach\
7. Clause 1.5.12 (a) of Schedule 1 – the master of a personal watercraft must not operate the personal watercraft for any purpose other than transiting in the safest most direct course to, or from the shore and/or boat ramp or berthing facility (including a jetty, pier or mooring), whilst operating within designated 5 knot speed restriction zone

Subject to the conditions detailed below:

- Masters of rescue vessels are only exempt from items 1 to 5 when undertaking a rescue operation to retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs and deliver them to a place of safety on shore and item 6 for the duration of the event
- Masters of PWC rescue vessels are exempt from item 7 for the duration of the event and must not exceed 5 knots when operating within designated 5 knot speed restriction zones, unless undertaking a rescue operation
- Masters of mechanically powered LSV vessels up to and including 4.8 metres in length (excluding PWCs) are exempt from the carriage of specified safety equipment whilst within visual range of a staffed lifesaving facility or flagged area, as per the Exemptions for Life Saving Victoria vessels in Exemption Notice 1
- All occupants of powered vessels involved with the event must wear a lifejacket at all times during the event and vessels must have all prescribed safety equipment, unless exempt under Exemption Notice 1
- The exemptions apply from 7:00am to 2:00pm on Sunday 1 March 2026 (back-up date Monday 2 March 2026) to the persons and vessels participating in the 2026 WOW Swim within the Set Aside waters off Williamstown Beach
- In the event of any injuries which result in hospitalisation, a fatality or an incident involving a person or vessel not involved in the event, these must be immediately reported to Victoria Police and Safe Transport Victoria (ST Vic). In the case of all other incidents ST Vic requires incident reports within seven (7) days and a finalised report within 30 days
- The exemptions apply provided the stated safety controls and undertakings detailed in the application form and associated documentation are adhered to

By Order of Parks Victoria

Dated: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)