PUBLIC NOTICE
DECLARATION OF BOATING ACTIVITY EXEMPTION

Parks Victoria as the declared waterway manager for the Yarra River upstream of port waters of the Port of Melbourne, makes the following declaration under section 203(3) of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic).

For the purposes of boating activity conducted by the Hawthorn Rowing Club, persons and vessels involved in the 2026 Head of the Yarra are exempt from the following requirements:

State Rules made under the *Marine Act 1988*

1. Clause 2(c) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of another vessel
2. Clause 3(a) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of the water's edge
3. Clause 3(b) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a fixed or floating structure

Marine Safety Regulations 2023

4. Clause 3.1 of Schedule 3 – 5 knot speed restriction on waters on the Yarra River
5. Claude 3.4 (a) of Schedule 3 – vessels berthing at the boathouses upstream of the Princess Bridge must approach from the berthing area from downstream and after passing through the southern arch of the Princes Bridge

Subject to the conditions detailed below:

- Masters of vessels providing rescue services must ensure they comply with the gazetted waterway rules and *Marine Safety Act 2010* in respect to minimum speed and distance requirements, unless otherwise 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.
- Competitors are only exempt from items 1 to 5 when competing in the events.
- Masters of rescue and support vessels are exempt from item 5 for the duration of the event
- Occupants of rescue and official vessels involved in the event must wear a lifejacket at all times.
- Rescue boats must carry additional lifejackets to support persons that may be required to be rescued.
- The event is operating under the auspices of Rowing Victoria, including the Rowing Victoria Safety Management Plan, which meets the criteria of Clause 3 of Exemption Notice 1 made under the Marine Regulations 1999 in respect of the exemption for rowing vessels to not carry or wear a lifejacket.
- Interstate and international crews are included in the above exemption provided that they are thoroughly briefed on the course (including all hazards), the Yarra River Rules relating to rowing vessels and the State Waterway Rules.
- The exemptions apply from 7:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday 28 November 2026 within the exclusion zone waters between the upstream edge of the VRA landing to Birrarung Marr and the upstream edge of Hawthorn Bridge, Bridge Rd
- The exemptions apply provided the states safety controls and undertakings detailed in the application form and associated documentation to adhere to.

By order of Parks Victoria
Dated: Click or tap to enter a date.