



## Information for Berth Holders and Boat Operators

### Boat Fuelling

This information has been prepared by Gippsland Ports as an advisory service for fuelling boats within the Ports of Anderson Inlet, Port Albert and Corner Inlet, Gippsland Lakes, Snowy River, Mallacoota and on the waterways of Lake Tyers and Shallow Inlet.

***Fuelling a boat at any marina, public jetty, wharf*** within these waterways ***is prohibited*** except when fuelling from ***approved fuel*** bowser outlets, currently at Lakes Entrance - North Arm (diesel, petrol), Lakes Entrance – LEFCOL (diesel), Metung (diesel, petrol), Paynesville (diesel, petrol), and Port Welshpool (diesel), or unless specifically authorised through a Gippsland Ports permit issued under the Port Management (Local Ports) Regulation 2004.

Gippsland Ports understands there are limitations to available outlets and encourages fuelling ashore as the preferred option for trailer boats at a service station where risks are more manageable and any spills are easier to contain.

Fuelling over water should only be conducted when fuelling on shore or at an authorised on water fuel facility is not possible.

#### **If fuelling over the water:**

- No fuelling to occur at marinas, public jetties and wharves
- Fuelling should preferably be done at authorised on water fuel facilities
- Remove portable tanks for fuelling at the fuel bowser
- Fuel for boat fuelling should only be stored and transported in portable fuel containers conforming to Australian Standard AS/NZS 2906
- Ensure that you have appropriate fire fighting equipment / extinguisher at hand
- As per Marine Safety Regulation 91, ensure all passengers are ashore with only the person in charge of the vessel remaining onboard during fuelling.
- Remove all ignition sources - turn off pilot lights, cut off electric power at main switch, no smoking
- Close all hatches and openings to prevent ingress of fumes into the enclosed spaces on the vessel
- Turn off all mobile phones
- Place discharge bucket under air/overflow pipe
- Carefully monitor the filling rate to avoid overfilling – leave room in the tank for fuel expansion
- Ensure a funnel or container nozzle is used when decanting fuel
- Carry a spill kit and clean up any fuel spills immediately

**At completion of fuelling:**

- Thoroughly clean up all surface spills with an absorbent cloth and properly dispose of contaminated waste off the boat
- Be aware that traces of fumes may remain in the enclosed spaces of the vessel particularly in the hull and bilges
- Activate bilge blowers (if fitted) and operate for 3-4 minutes
- If fuel is spilled in the bilges or engine bay put a small amount of detergent or washing powder over the area to minimise ignition risks
- If fuel has spilled into the bilges, pump the bulk of the spill manually into sealed containers; clean up all remaining fuel with an absorbent cloth; open all hatches and openings and leave boat wide open for at least 30 minutes to vent
- When completely satisfied that the boat is free of fumes and as per Marine Safety Regulation 91, restart the engine before allowing passengers onboard

**In the event of a fuel spill into the water:**

- People who create fuel spills are responsible for the fuel spill cleanup
- Use your spill kit as per the manufacturers instructions to contain the spilled fuel
- Report any spills into the waterway to Gippsland Ports Ph 03 51500500

**Check your fuel:**

- Always replace old fuel – never go out with fuel which is more than six months old
- Make sure you have enough fuel for the trip – 1/3 out, 1/3 back and 1/3 in reserve
- Clean your fuel tank at least once a year with a suitable solvent and dispose of old fuel responsibly
- Inspect the fuel tank for cracks or corrosion
- Inspect boat motor/s, fuel lines, manual priming bulbs and all connections for damage, cracks or leaks
- Clean out or replace the fuel filter

**Ethanol blended fuel:**

- Ethanol can affect some fibreglass fuel tanks
- Ethanol can affect older fuel lines, seals and gaskets
- Ethanol blended fuel can separate into the petrol and ethanol components if condensation forms in the tank or where the fuel is stored for extended periods
- 0 – 10% by volume – check with your engine and boat manufacturer advice prior to use
- More than 10% by volume – do not use in marine engines

oooOOOooo

STAY SAFE AND ENJOY YOUR BOATING