

SCHEDULE OF SUBMISSIONS: OCEAN BEACH BOAT LAUNCH

Submission Number	Name & Address	Verbatim Submission
S1	[REDACTED]	Thank you for revisiting boat launching at Ocean Beach. I am supportive and in favour of reopening for the boating community to use for the full 12 months.
S2	[REDACTED]	<p>It is my understanding that the Denmark Shire Council are reviewing the decision to close Ocean Beach to boat launching during peak holiday periods.</p> <p>I support the review and would like to see the original decision, to ban boat launching during Christmas holidays and at Easter, reversed so that boats can use the beach at these times.</p> <p>I believe that boats should be able to launch from Ocean Beach all year round. Certainly there may be a few exceptions – e.g. days when <i>major</i> activities are held at Ocean Beach which would cause problems for both parties. For the rest of the time all parties should be able to enjoy access to the beach whenever they wish it.</p>
S3	[REDACTED]	<p>I would like to make comment on the ocean beach boat closure. In my 25 years living in Denmark I don't think I have seen a more divisive issue to come before council. One has to wonder if it wasn't that the main proponent for the closure wasn't the brother of the then shire president, such a motion would have even got off the ground.</p> <p>The risk assessment carried out by the shire into boat launching at OB was completely flawed. It was well articulated by a ratepayer at public question time { who job it is to construct risk assessments for the high risk offshore oil and gas industry) , that the process cant be done without input from local user groups. How can you close OB boat launching thus forcing users to a more remote location , with a whole new set of risks without having a risk assessment done there. I think the whole process was rushed and much more thought should have gone into it.</p> <p>When it was put out to public comment, the vast majority of replies were in favor off keeping the launch site open all year. You have to ask why put out things to public comment when council chooses to ignore the majority and I think that the recent shire council elections reflect what happens when a council chooses to ignore the voice of the ratepayers.</p> <p>My job as a fishing based tourism provider gives me good insight into the expectations of tourists to our</p>

		<p>region and what it is that brings people to Denmark and what makes them return. The big attraction is that you can still do some activities here , that more sanitized locations don't allow. Generations of the same families have been coming to Denmark, with a fishing trip out of OB a highlight.</p> <p>In my 25 years of launching at ocean beach I have not seen an issue with boats and other beach users, and to close it as a result of one near miss, is in my opinion a knee jerk reaction. It would be interesting to look at the number off injuries caused by surf boards and other users at OB , yet no one (and rightly so) is proposing to ban surfing.</p> <p>With correct signage and the willingness of user groups to educate the public, I seen no reason why OB cant return to a safe, all year round boat launching site, and those that say we can have a alternative all weather launch site somewhere near Magarey's rock, well that's just pie in the sky stuff.</p> <p>I will look forward to the discussion at the shire re this issue, and hope that sanity prevails.</p>
S4	<p>██████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p>Yes ,please remove the restrictions on launching ,bad move in the first place,how much did it cost Denmark this year?</p>
S5	<p>██████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p>I fully support the removal of any restrictions over our local boat ramp. I launched my boat from parry's beach during the ban and if it comes down to being liable for an incident I feel it is more or a risk with the ban than without it. The outer reefs and swell conditions are far more unpredictable off parry's beach and seeing as the sea rescue would be an hours boating away to attend any life threatening incident I feel that the risk is far greater sending all boating traffic to parry's and Torbay than to allow boat launching at ocean beach. I think there are larger liabilities at stake like the newly installed unmonitored caravan park at McLean oval. Or the unsupervised 24hr accessible gym at the recreation centre. Please just remove the ban and remove the issue from council agenda it has dominated enough or our time and money.</p>
S6	<p>██████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p>Boat launchings at all times of the year for the benefit of tourists and locals alike, should be implemented immediately by the Denmark Council.</p>
S7	<p>██████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p>Thank you for the oppportunity to provide comment on this proposal.</p> <p>My wife and I regularly use the Ocean Beach foreshore area for a number of activities, which include, swimming and boogie boarding in front of the Surf Club, bird watching, walking and for myself, fishing</p>

		<p>off the rocks near McGeary's Rock. We are very familiar with all of the activities that take place at Ocean Beach and have observed boat movements from both the sea and from land. I have been taught to surf by Mike Neunuebel, in fact have had three generations being taught at the same time. Mike's hands-on advice on the use of the rip and general protocol in sharing the water with others was an important part of his lectures. I have owned and sailed a yacht for 20 years and have launched it off ramps and off beaches from Broome to Albany. I understand how to launch and retrieve a boat, and at the South of Perth Yacht Club, I spent years teaching blind people how to sail and importantly, understand and appreciate the hazards and risks associated with this sport.</p> <p>From the above, and coupled with my own experience in working in the marine environment for the past 45 years, it is my view that I am well qualified to comment on this proposal.</p> <p>I have read the Ocean Beach User Group (OBUG) letter to Councillors dated 9th November 2015.</p> <p>I support the move to reinstate the use of Ocean Beach for boat launching, and with the proposals being put forward by OBUG, believe that we can return to enjoy a harmonious use of the beach by the whole Community, whilst not compromising safety.</p> <p>I applaud all those who have brought this proposal to the forefront, in particular, the work done by Councillor Kelli Gillies, and by OBUG. Well done.</p>
S8	<p>██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████</p>	<p>I agree with the proposal to again allow the use Ocean Beach for boat launching and retrieval. This should be with the inclusion of measures to reduce the risks of interaction between boats and other beach users. I am not a boat owner nor have I accessed the ocean from Ocean Beach.</p>
S9	<p>████████████████████ ██████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p>as a family who enjoy fishing and boating we would like the boat ramp at Ocean Beach to remain open permanently instead of the current closures at Easter and Christmas. There are a number of reasons that we feel the boat ramp remaining open would work better for Denmark;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Usually boat launching occurs when there is minimal swell - surfers use the area when there is a larger swell. * Many of our friends and family come to Denmark at Christmas and Easter with their boats to enjoy time with their families - this year they chose to stay in Walpole due to the Denmark Boat Ramp closure. * We have time to be together as a family during the holidays so this has impacted our family boating time

		<p>dramatically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * There is more pressure on the Parry's Boat Ramp facility * With appropriate signage and communication we can have a multi use beach that everyone can share and enjoy as a community.
S10	<p>██████████ ██████████</p>	<p>Rather than a "submission" this is a few comments regarding the lifting of the boat launching restrictions at Ocean Beach and are made in my capacity as a ratepayer rather than a user of Ocean Beach or by association with various emergency services.</p> <p>The first comment is that the original decision, after the politics are thrown aside, to close the beach to boat launching and retrieval (with an exemption for DSRG) was based on a risk assessment which I was lead to believe was carried out by a person or persons who have appropriate expertise in this field.</p> <p>The question now becomes; was this risk assessment invalid? Did this risk assessment identify risks that did not exist? If there is an answer to these questions and it is that the original risk assessment was sound, what has changed that would validate the removal of the restrictions? Should the risk still exist, should there be the catastrophic accident that the proponents of the closure proclaimed, where does this leave the council and/or the ratepayers with respect to litigation? This would obviously not have the "get out of jail free" card of acted in good faith if there is an identified risk. If the risk still exists (nothing has changed) what measures are to be put in place to mitigate or remove the risk should the ban be lifted?</p> <p>The current web notice makes reference to; does not allow any motorised vessel (boats) from launching..... the (boats) should be removed so that there is no confusion leading to people believing they can launch PWC (jet skis) during the ban should it continue.</p> <p>If there were answers provided to these and perhaps many other facts surrounding this issue then I (and others) may be in a position, should I/they choose, to present a submission including some recommendations. I made a number of recommendations in the previous debate that should have been palatable to all parties and kept the miniscule section of the beach utilised for boat launch/retrieval open, but at that time the decision was influenced outside council by parties that from the outset wished to have exclusive use of Ocean Beach, spruiking safety (as their dubious argument) of small children</p>

		<p>without acknowledging that parents are responsible for their children and that non motorised things that float presented an equal risk to safety but were not placed in the ban the boats equation.</p> <p>People need to go back to taking responsibility for themselves and their actions. If this were the case the beach would not have closed in the first instance.</p>
S11	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I support the motion to allow boats to launch from ocean beach all year round until a better launch site is built ocean bch should be for everyone</p>
S12	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I fully support Council's proposal to remove boating restrictions at Ocean Beach during the periods 20 December to 31 Jan and Easter weekend.</p>
S13	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I support the motion to allow boats to launch from ocean beach all year round until a new launching site is built ,last years decision to close the beach was wrong and only came about because the president at the time had no consideration for anything else and was not cooperative in any kind of negotiation his heavy handed stamping of the table made councillors and ceo,s do what he wanted, as the skipper involved in the near miss last yeari was found not guilty and have no case to answer for with the transport authorities,surf lifesaving is trying to stop people swimming in dangerous rips however last year the president fought and won the right to allow swimmers to swim in the rip this was redicoulouse and definitely wrong ! all user groups are happy to work together to allow all beach users equal access to the beach and to promote a safe way though signage and education.</p>
S14	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I wish to add my support to the rescinding of the closure periods at Ocean Beach and support the launching of boats at Ocean Beach year round.</p> <p>In support of rescinding the closure periods can I say that every day members of the public including children walk along Ocean Beach Road separated by traffic travelling at 60kph, which is at its heaviest during the Easter and the school holidays, by in some places only a thin white line painted on the road. Yet no way would the Shire consider closing the road to traffic due to possible legal liability should a child run in front of a car or a car drift onto the footpath.</p> <p>Further the Shire's legal liability only relates to above the high water line, and its the Dept Transports</p>

		responsibility for the waters where any interaction between boats and swimmers occurs.
S15	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Regarding boat launching at Ocean Beach on Christmas and Easter periods. I would like the shire to rescind the motion of no boat launching over these two periods and put it back to 365 days a year launching!</p> <p>The argument against boat launching over these two periods, the data used was incorrect and grossly over exaggerated about beach use and launching.</p> <p>As easterly weather pattern over summer make ocean beach launching only possible on a small number of days interference between user groups is minimal.</p> <p>The so called incident involving a boat and young surfers was blown out of proportion by a small number of people for their own benefit.</p> <p>The owner of the boat was first issued with an infringement notice because of vocal and biased opinions. When investigated by Marine Authority the truth was found out all blame and infringement notices were cancelled, because nothing happened there is no incident (ie – NO DAMAGE, CONTACT OR UNJURYS) and the boat operator did the correct safety procedures.</p> <p>Boating, surfing and water sports are activities in which safety is paramount, we all work together to keep people safe as has happened over the last 40 years I have been fishing out of Ocean Beach.</p> <p>All incidents or drownings at Ocean Beach have been surf club related swimmers or suffers not boat launching.</p> <p>So please put it back to 3565 days launching as at was and should be.</p>
S16	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>We wish to make a submission again against council’s decision to close the boat launching access at Ocean Beach, we feel this was a very drastic decision and should have never been made.</p> <p>We have been members of the Denmark Surf Club for over 35 years and have enjoyed Ocean Beach all our lives and it should be enjoyed by all people from Surfing, Swimming, and Boating etc whether local or visitors.</p> <p>The access where the boats go out is a rip and only usually used by surfers as a quick access to get out the back to surf, occasionally surf club use it for training purposes, in fact surf club patrols are always telling swimmers to get out of it and swim between the flags, so this is the perfect spot for boats to launch.</p> <p>Boats don’t go out if its big swell or bad winds as it is too dangerous and not good for fishing, which is usually when the surfers are out, and everyone knows that in Denmark there are not very many calm beautiful days in a year that they can get out so to close the boat launching for this period of time is ridiculous.</p> <p>As we have spent so much time at Ocean Beach we have seen the boats come in and they are always stopping out the back of the waves and ensuring a safe passage before coming into the beach, safety is</p>

		<p>always everyone's priority, but we need to be responsible for our actions and be alert to all users at the beach and the fact that there is surf boards, jet ski's, rescue boards, swimmers and boats it's really not that hard to look around and be safe.</p> <p>I feel for the Caravan Park and the visitors wanting to come to this town, as they will just go elsewhere as we are definitely not acting in a way that a tourist town should be and ensuring they get to see the best assets of our town. So many beaches all over Australia coexist with all different clubs and sports and they all have great signage and are so inviting for visitors to enjoy their facilities, why can't we.</p> <p>We really believe with education and good signage that everyone can coexist at Ocean Beach and live in a community that is not full of conflict and disharmony caused by stupid council decisions.</p>
S17	<p>██████████ ██████████████████</p>	<p>I am writing to you regarding Ocean Beach Boat Launching and the Denmark Shire's intention to remove restrictions which have been forced upon the boat users of Denmark and its visiting boaters.</p> <p>It is a decision which has been welcomed by boaters and beach users alike. Who feel ,In my opinion that they were poorly dealt with from the beginning and finally some common sense has been introduced into the discussion, instead of the one sided attitude displayed by certain members of the previous council.</p> <p>With co-operation between the local user groups of ocean beach corner and not forgetting the public the "Over Beach Launch Site" can, and always has functioned well when it comes to boat launching and retrievals.</p> <p>I do commend the user groups for their willingness to unite for a common cause and come up with strategies that keep Ocean Beach Corner safe when boating activities are being undertaken.</p> <p>I would also like to mention that I am member of the Denmark boating public and have used ocean beach many many times over the last 20 years without incident.</p> <p>In conclusion, it is of my opinion that boat launching and retrievals should continue at Ocean Beach ALL YEAR ROUND.</p>
S18	<p>██████████ ██████████ ██████████████████</p>	<p>I am writing this letter to ask that the shire of Denmark would reconsider the DBAC Boat launching at Ocean Beach to be open for launching a boat all year round.</p> <p>I am a Denmark Resident for over 30 year, I do have a boat and would like to be able to use the facility weather permitting.</p>

S19	<p>██████████ ██████████ ██████████████████</p>	<p>I am writing this letter to ask that the shire of Denmark would reconsider the DBAC Boat launching at Ocean Beach to be open for launching a boat all year round. I am a Denmark Resident for over 20 year, I am a boat user and would like to be able to use the facility (weather permitting) at any time.</p>
S20	<p>██████████ ██████████████████</p>	<p>Why I don't want the Ocean Beach boat ramp to be closed. I have 3 kids, 2 boys Kaine & Jacob and 1 girl Ella, they all love the beach and ocean all their lives. They can swim and love to surf, the 2 boys would surf at least 2-3 times a week like myself. Kaine and myself own 2 jet ski's, they are registered and insured, we have both done our skippers tickets. We use our jet ski's often for perusing our sport i.e. surfing large waves, diving, fishing along the coast every where from Knapp Head to Walpole. I also own a registered boat and it's not very big about 15 foot which is used for taking my kids and friends fishing We live 3.5 km from the only safe launching spot which is Ocean Beach and regularly use this launching area, when the conditions are right to do so to go fishing, all of my fishing spots which have taken along time to find are all off Ocean Beach with in a distance of about 7lm from Ocean Beach. The times of the year when we can go out are often dictated by conditions i.e. swell, wind, sunny days, time restraint work, school, family commitments (you know what I mean) also this is when most often we use the boat launching facility at Ocean Beach and so do the other local boat owners and there's probably around 10-20 regular boat owners who use this launching facility, we don't all go out on the same day maybe only 5-8 boast in one day REMEMBER ITS THE ONLY SAFE LAUNCH AREA CLOSE TO TOWN, Parry's Beach is 25km away one way, 50km round trip. Ok we use Ocean Beach launching area to go out fishing, diving in prime time December to May and in that time fame it is school holidays xmas, easter and this is when locals that live close to Ocean Beach have time off to be able to go out in our boats etc. When boat owner launch at Ocean Beach it is usually early in the morning 5am-7am before any one is even using the beach or out of bed, and when we come back in with the sea breeze around lunch time, not many people like to be at Ocean Beach surfing and swimming when the breeze is in because it is too choppy and cold. When launching and retrieving our boat/jet ski we are only using the channel next to the rocks for getting out and in for about 1 minute maybe 2 minutes maximum, we are hugging the rocks staying in the channel going slowly about 5 knots and watching out for surfers and swimmers. That is why we have Skippers tickets and there are rules requiring this to be adhered to. In the 30 years that I have been using the Ocean Beach to swim, surf, launch vessels I can not recall any</p>

accident or incident with registered vessels and I go to Ocean Beach at least 6 time or more a week at different times of the day to check conditions.

Any accidents or incidents that have occurred have been with surf board-rescue boards from the surf club or general public not being able to turn their craft and not knowing their ability even in small flat conditions(signage is poor). Stand up paddle boards are also becoming popular and can be quite dangerous when they are catching a wave and fall in front of swimmers and surfers WILL YOU BAN THESE ALSO.

I think that the shire have really opened up a very large can of worms on this proposal, which has been completely and utterly blown out of the water over something that has not happened and will possibly not happen. To penalise those people who regularly use the Ocean Beach Launch area is narrow minded and over exaggerated by a minority of people who don't even go to the beach and use it on a day to day basis to fish, surf, swim etc.

At the recent meeting the Shire President quoted as saying that Ocean Beach supported 10,000 to 15,000 people over that 6 week period over xmas, which sounds like a lot and that someone was counting them over a number of years, what he did not tell us was that only maybe 100 people were in the water at any given time over that period.

The majority are just sight seeing or just having a look around.

The Shire President also said he could obtain funding for a new launch facility in the Ocean Beach area which sounds great, but I am pretty sure that before this could even eventuate, it would need to be studied engineered, environmental studies etc etc, before it even got built.

It will take a minimum of 5-10 years before anything happens as like most projects including the industrial park. At the end of the day the most likely launch facility would be in the corner at Ocean Beach anyway.

I can not see any reason why this proposal has been put to the Shire for assessment when the cold hard facts are there in black and white nothing and no one has been injured, the Shire has not been litigated against.

What really annoys me and other users of the Ocean Beach launch facility is that even though we are a small portion of the community, we love surfing, tow surfing, fishing, diving we are to be penalised at the time of the year when our families and friends get time off work and the conditions are right to pursue our chosen recreational activities, we do our best to launch as safely as possible.

So in summing up and trying to get my point of view across, I would like to ask you the Shire Councillors who may vote to close Ocean Beach launching facility over these dates to please consider your vote and think about this plan with the open mind ness of us rate payers who will be disappointed by its closure.

		<p>If any councillors would like, I would be happy to offer my services and water craft to take you out from Ocean Beach launch facility to give you a first hand look at why the proposal is not an option at any time of the year. If you decide to take up my offer you will presently surprised and will understand my point of view as to why the closure over the proposed period will disadvantage us recreational boat and ski users who live close to this part of the coast, surly there is a more common sense approach to this facility staying open to all ocean users rather than penalising those people that use this for their recreation activities, fishing, diving, surfing when they time off work.</p>
S21	<p>██████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████</p>	<p>I support the opening of access to boating launching on Ocean Beach for the good and use of the greater community rather than the benefit of a few.</p>
S22	<p>██████████ ██████████████████</p>	<p>I would like to register my opposition to the closure of vessel launching at Ocean Beach at certain times of the year.</p> <p>As previously voiced at community meetings on this topic, I believe that the Shire should be taking steps to provide a safe, dual-use area, where all user groups can co-exist safely on this beach.</p> <p>The way in which this closure has been pushed through has not been in the community interest; instead it has appeared to have been progressed by individuals with their own agenda, to the detriment of the majority.</p> <p>From discussions with community members, across all user groups, I have certainly found that the "majority" are those who do not support this closure, and are appalled at the way this closure was pushed through despite community objection.</p> <p>I strongly request that the Shire take the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a risk assessment (non-biased this time, unlike the previous assessment conducted by LGIS). This risk assessment should aim to identify controls required to allow dual use of this beach. 2. Implement required controls as soon as practicable. It is my assumption that these will include controls previously identified by the DOT review conducted a number of years ago. 3. Rescind the ban on boat launching. 4. Continue/ accelerate the investigation into the construction of an alternative, suitable vessel launching facility within the immediate Denmark area. <p>Given that required controls have previously been identified, I would expect that the above steps 1-3 could be undertaken in a short time frame, finances dependent.</p>

In addition, I have the following concerns, regarding the current situation:

1. Most importantly, the closure of this launching facility has an effect on the effectiveness of the DSRG. With vessels launching from areas distant to Denmark, the response time of the DSRG will likely be increased as personnel fish (or similar) in waters further from the DSRG. This is a critical impact of the boat launching facility closure which I don't believe has been adequately considered.
2. I have noticed recently, during this closure, that the beach track has been closed. Presumably this is due to the removal of signage in the area. This has resulted in personnel in the area not even having access to drive down to the beach. This surely is an example of an unacceptable current situation, where the absence of adequate controls and the lack of suitable management of this area are continuing to have flow on effects.
3. Previous studies have been conducted regarding the interaction of various user groups on this beach. One identified a recommended action as being the restriction of swimmers from the first 80m (approx) from the rocks back towards the surf club. This minimised the risk of swimmer/ vessel interaction, and the risk of swimmers drowning in the channel (as per the reported 4 fatalities which have occurred in the past 50-odd years. Please note that these fatalities were due to the current in the channel - vessels have never been involved in any significant incidents in this area). The decision was made not to enforce this restriction of swimmers from the area, as the user groups decided at that time that they could agree on a suitable solution which would not overly impact any one particular user group. This was prior to individuals forcing their own agenda, as implied above.
4. There are no other suitable launching facilities within the immediate Denmark area. Parry's Beach cannot cope with increased volumes of vessels, as there is inadequate parking in the area. Hartman's Beach is similarly unsuitable to be relied upon to take increased numbers. In contrast, there are many, many beaches suitable for swimmers and surfers all around the immediate Denmark area. Why have the swimmers/ surfers not been restricted from this beach during peak times, particularly given the history of swimmer fatalities in this area? It is the lack of consideration of other options such as this which add to the perception that there are personal agendas being pushed.
5. With the closure of this area to vessel launching, we are risking losing this user group to other Great Southern towns, such as Albany. Tourists who would otherwise come to Denmark are likely to instead stay in Albany (or similar) to avoid driving long distances to access suitable launching facilities. This has a clear impact on the tourism industry, on which Denmark relies.

In summary, I strongly object to the closure of the Ocean Beach vessel launching facility at various times

		<p>during the year. I call upon the Shire to work with user groups to assess and suitably manage the area to allow continued use by all user groups year-round.</p>
S23	<p>[REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	<p>As a keen recreational fisherman I chose to retire to Denmark 10 years ago and have since enjoyed the many lifestyle benefits this town has to offer - including access to excellent offshore fishing opportunities.</p> <p>For the past two months, however, fishing enthusiasts like me have been seriously disadvantaged by the closure of the Ocean Beach boat launching facility, which forces us to drive an extra 20kms to Parrys Beach.</p> <p>The closure was implemented because of a perceived conflict of interest between beach users, but it has only succeeded in creating a potentially more serious conflict at Parrys - a confined and difficult site to manoeuvre boat trailers among crowds of campers and other beach users, including large numbers of children.</p> <p>Most towns along our wonderful coastline enjoy reasonable access to boat launching facilities. Why is Denmark putting itself at a disadvantage by telling resident fishing enthusiasts and boat-owning holidaymakers to go elsewhere?</p>
S24	<p>[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	<p>This Association supports the proposal by the Shire of Denmark to re-open the Ocean Beach launching facility. The W A Division of the Australian Anglers Association is an organization of angling clubs comprising of some 20 clubs spread throughout the south-west of Western Australia. Membership of these clubs is in excess of 7 000 members.</p> <p>The Denmark Boating and Angling Club is an affiliated member of this organization. This club is committed to promoting the shared and the continued use of Ocean Beach as a boat launching area for the boating community, both local and the many tourists that holiday here.</p> <p>This Association actively supports this approach and will actively support any efforts to have permanent boat launching facilities built and maintained in the area to ensure safer recreational boating. This Association believes that this region is a prime tourist angling opportunity and can only be enhanced by improved boating facilities, which will in turn benefit the Denmark region.</p>

S25	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I am a local resident and member of the Denmark Angling Club. I moved down to Denmark around 2 years ago for the lifestyle and most of all to enjoy one of my favourite pastimes and hobbies, that is , fishing.</p> <p>I have been monitoring the situation in regards to the closure of Ocean Beach to anglers wishing to launch from the beach. I think any closure is totally unnecessary and the community can and has been working together to have us all enjoy our past times and all share the beach for surfing, fishing and other sports. The anglers only need a very small part of this huge beach, so let's be realistic and share it all as we should. Some basic signage would easily sort this out.</p>
S26	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Being a local beach goer, boating and angling enthusiast and a member of the Denmark Volunteer Marine Rescue, I would like to see the launching and channel area remain open for the proposed 46 weeks of each year.</p>
S27	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>In regard to the Boat Launching at Ocean Beach, as a boat user myself for many years I believe that the Boat Launching should be open over the Christmas & Easter periods at Ocean Beach as it is the best place for boats access and we are a tourist town and not all of us like swimming and surfing.</p> <p>Living in Denmark all of my life I know how many people, local and tourist like to go Deep Sea Fishing, so to have access at Ocean Beach is a great attraction for Denmark.</p> <p>Until the shire can find an alternative safe spot for a Boat Launching facility close to the Denmark town area, then Ocean Beach should be open for access to the public that wish to use it.</p> <p>Making boat users go to Parry's Beach to launch their boats is putting Parry's Beach Parking under stress with nowhere to park boat trailers. Most Denmark boat users will come back to Ocean Beach from Parry's by water to fish the reefs at Ocean Beach but if the swell picks up as it can do very quickly down here, then it is a long way back to Parry's Beach to get to safety and is putting lives in danger at sea when they can come around the corner to Ocean Beach and be safe.</p> <p>I have watched for years boats launching at Ocean Beach and it has never been a problem, I feel with good signage, education and the Surf Club, Sea Rescue and Boating & Angling Club working together, this can work with no complications.</p>
S28	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I support the proposal by the Shire of Denmark to re-open the Ocean Beach launching facility.</p> <p>Having fished from the area and knowing the difficulties surrounding the issues of beach launching, I am committed to promoting the shared and the continued use of Ocean Beach as a boat launching area for the boating community both local and the many tourists that holiday here.</p>

		<p>I will actively support any efforts to have permanent boat launching facilities built and maintained in the area to ensure safer recreational boating.</p> <p>I also believe that this region is a prime tourist angling opportunity and can only be enhanced by improved boating facilities, which will in turn benefit the Denmark region.</p> <p>Please find my attached original non-support of closure email and response from your council.</p> <p>I have been fortunate to have fished the Denmark coastline and are aware of the issues with the “unmarked channel”, but only as a boatie.</p> <p>The interaction between boats and surfers can be an issue, and both require education.</p> <p>Unfortunately when the surfing is better and does work along the opening, then this is when the issues may arise with the interaction.</p> <p>I do not agree with any closures.</p> <p>I do understand that the Shire is required to provide a safe environment, and would be remiss in not addressing all issues, but please note that this issue is an issue that does occur up down and across the coast, with Windsurfers, Kite surfers, Body Boarders, and boaties alike, swimmers do not attempt to swim in these potentially hazardous areas.</p> <p>The education is the issue, because the “channel” is so narrow and really only used by the most experienced boaties, and is only a real issue when the swell is up.</p>
S29	<p>██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████</p>	<p>I hereby wish to add my voice to those in support of the Shire’s decision to consider the reopening of the Ocean Beach launching facilities in Denmark. Having been actively involved in recreational angling for more than 60 years I support this move by the Shire to re-open this facility.</p> <p>As the inaugural secretary of the W A Recreational and Sport Fishing Council which is now better known as Recfishwest, I have had a long term interest in the promotion of recreational fishing. I have also been actively involved in fishing media being a contributor to national fishing magazines and also a radio broadcaster producing and presenting radio fishing programs on both commercial and community broadcast stations as well as the ABC.</p> <p>I actively support this effort of the Shire of Denmark as I feel it will bring long term gains to the region through recreational fishing tourism. Having recently toured the South West of Western Australia and knowing what facilities are available for recreational anglers in this area of the state.</p> <p>I believe that this region is a prime tourist angling opportunity and can only be enhanced by improved boating and recreational angling facilities. In offering my support to this proposal I will also actively support any efforts undertaken by the Shire to research, and raise funds to provide permanent boat launching facilities in the Denmark region. I believe that this will be a win-win situation for the Shire and</p>

		the people living there.
S30	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>As a former Vice President of the Denmark Surf Life Saving Club, I was very disappointed to see the Council voted to stop launching of boats at Christmas time, the tourists who came expected to be able to launch their boats and were extremely disappointed as I am.</p> <p>The launching of boats in this area is only for boats and surf boards as the rip is usually too dangerous for swimmers.</p> <p>My time as Vice President of the Surf Club was a great time and there was never an issue, we had a great understanding with the boaties and worked together to ensure they came back safely to the beach and tourists would get involved with seeing what the catch was, especially at Christmas and Easter.</p> <p>All members of the surf club made it a safe area, always talking and educating swimmers to swim between the flags and ensured no one swam in the boat launching area as it is a rip and quite deep which is great for boats and the surfers.</p> <p>I hope that the councillors will see this as I see it and how it is better for the whole community and visitors do everyone can use Ocean Beach together.</p>
S31	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I am writing to express my opinion in support of the re-opening the Ocean Beach over Beach Launching area at Ocean Beach at certain times of the year. All members of the Ocean Beach User Group are working together towards a safer Ocean Beach for all users. This is evident with the positive experiences I have had with the interaction of the Denmark Surf Lifesaving Club, whilst launching and retrieving my vessel in the permitted times. Surf Club members on patrol have been proactive in notifying swimmers and board riders who have strayed into the shared use channel of the approach of a boat. With the continued support of the user group and the Denmark Shire the implementation of additional safety measures, education and proposed signage will contribute to make this facility accessible for all and not exclusive for some.</p>
S32	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I wish to submit that I do not support the temporary closure of Ocean Beach Boat ramp to the public. I definitely do support boat users, swimmers, surfers and surf club members working together to provide a safe area for all to use, and I do feel that all public users can co-exist safely.</p> <p>The reason I believe this, is we would only ever launch on a small swell when there is little or no risk. It's nearly always a rip where we launch, so swimming is a lot more dangerous than launching a boat. We have little or no chance of getting a concrete ramp built in Denmark, and parry's is more dangerous to launch than ocean beach due to low tides and shore breaks.</p> <p>Surely we can all work together and keep living the lifestyle we all love and live here for.</p>

S33		<p>There is no doubt that the process resulting in the current boating ban from ocean beach was severely flawed. The resulting political fallout has been significant and is likely to continue come next elections. Let's hope that Denmark does not see again a time where a few individuals of influence ride rough shod over the community to ensure their own interests of exclusivity or other. Let's hope that future CEO's respect the community and do not skew process - such as when the community asked for an "independent risk assessment" regarding boating at Ocean Beach yet received a risk assessment fully "independent of the community". Although within the rules, it was way outside of community expectations of "fairness" and was engineered to produce the desired outcome suiting the closure. Whilst it would be widely accepted that swimming, surfing and boating at Ocean Beach has risks, boating has been the safest with only one "near Miss" on record. Other anecdotal past occurrences of any concern have been dealt with previously by the introduction of gazetted zones, signage and education. The "near miss" in question has revealed that more needs to be done, and it is good to see the Ocean Beach User Group (OBUG) forum attendees working positively together through these issues and developing hazard mitigations without requiring the extreme boat banning idea. The shire councillors and administration need to support this OBUG forums ideas and have them implemented ASAP. There may be mention by others of a guideline produced by a Surf Life Saving body regarding safe distances between recreational users. The first page states it <u>is not a legal document</u> and a guideline only, probably intended for nice long beaches without inlet openings and a constant rip. Although Ocean Beaches natural design precludes adherence to this guideline for separating <u>all</u> water borne recreational pursuits, the natural scoured channel along the rocks produced by the ever present rip assists greatly with the division of activities, whereby, it is unsafe and not recommended to swim in this area, and is the only part where boats can successfully launch and retrieve. The surf club do a wonderful job in keeping swimmers between the flags well away from this rip. Also, good surfing days are bad boating days and visa-versa, limiting any potential clash. It only takes a short time for a vessel to make way to the beach once committed, most people are considerate enough to clear the channel for the short duration of the occasional vessel movement. Boat launching/retrieval has worked wonderfully well at ocean beach for many decades. All boat owners are required to be licensed with a recreational skippers ticket. The next closest boat launching facilities are Hartman's</p>

beach to the east (Torbay ~ 35+km) and Parry's Beach to the west (~30+km) which is a great cost towing and greater distance by sea to return to the usual fishing grounds, an unfair burden.

Ocean Beach should be re-opened to boating for the entire 12 month year - ongoing, until an alternate facility can be made within the Ocean Beach area following extensive user consultation as to the best location.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the motion 8.5.1. I have been involved with this issue since 2008 and would like to think my involvement and experience at this location recreationally and professionally could interest you to fully consider my opinions. Please read.

The occurrence that has ignited this turmoil was a "near miss" – No damage and No injury. It has been referred to as an accident as well as an incident. The "near miss" though has been a wakeup call for the community revealing the current risk controls have been lacking. Signage, although logical, is poorly positioned and too complex, and one of the former DoT signs previously located within the Surf Club grounds has gone missing possibly a contributing factor. The Ocean Beach User Groups and Associates (OBUGA) was formed by user representative volunteers and the like to consider the hazards presented by all recreational activities and interactions at Ocean Beach and recommend controls for reasonably mitigating the risks.

The current status of the corner at ocean beach is wonderfully self-limiting where generally if high swell event, there are surfers and no boats, when low swell event there are boaters and no surfers. Also, it is well known and sign posted that swimming and snorkelling is not recommended in the channel due to the dangerous rip that has claimed lives. People in the water, be they swimmers or surfers or kayakers, are naturally always looking seaward judging the next incoming waves, it is therefore inevitable they will see an inbound vessel waiting to transit the channel.

Helmsmen are required to keep a good watch and navigate at restricted speeds past persons in the water (Refer to the mandatory Recreational Skippers Ticket to operate a Powered vessel). Returning to any beach, boaters have a good view by being perched on the back of a wave which gives best draft and control.

The Gazetted 8 knot speed zone was chosen (2008) whereby it represents maximum speed of incoming waves at ocean beach. The gazetting of the "8 knot zone" and the "no boating zone" in 2008 do define user areas, however they need better - more obvious indicators and rules for the shared zone.

Surfers who use the channel's rip for a free ride out also keep a good watch where they are going. It

takes less than 30 seconds for a vessel to transit the channel and it is not unreasonable for outbound surfers to show consideration for incoming boats by not dropping in or entering channel until the vessel exited or landed. This is for their own safety and the safety of the vessel crew.

I have heard both the CEO and Shire President state that “they will close the boat access without notice if another incident occurs”. This statement presumes that it will be a swimmer or surfer possibly injured or killed. The statement by the CEO or Shire President does not consider that a wayward swimmer (remember not recommended in the dangerous rip) or an impatient surfer (should give way to incoming vessels) may place the vessel helmsman in an untenable situation, who will chose avoidance rather than injuring someone and could very likely be pushed by the next wave to the rocks and sustain damage to vessel and likely injury or death to vessel crew. All the boating public ask for is better signage and education to compel consideration by other users of the channel to nullify these risks for the occasional times that the channel is navigated.

This motion for closure came before you supposedly on the strength of the OBUGA minutes of 8 October where it stated that DSRG and DBAC expressed no real objections to the proposal. Both DBAC and DSRG OBUGA attendees disagree with this statement and dispute the accuracy of the minutes. I personally later discussed with an attending DOT person who heard it stated that “Sea Rescue would need to run it past their (80+) members”, the minutes did not reflect this??? I find it strange if not unfairly convenient that in the minutes these two organisations were singled out without the inclusion of DSLSC and that the specific questions were not asked or minutes even reviewed by the user groups before being used as supporting notes to the council agenda (poor and unfair process?).

I do not object to the shire noting (or releasing funds) for upgraded signage and also to assist with groups/clubs to promulgate community education regarding Ocean Beach recreational safety.

I do not object to the shire applying for grant monies and for contributing to a feasibility/engineering study to identify an alternate (local – at/near the end of Ocean Beach Road) boat launching facility.

I do not object to an alternative boat launching facility construction so long as it does not diminish the wonderful natural vista of Ocean Beach, nor enable less experienced boaters to launch safely into poor ocean state.

I do object to the closure, based on my experience as a recreational swimmer, board rider, boater and long term Sea Rescue volunteer at Ocean Beach.

Do not forget that people do not want to injure another nor do they wish to be injured, this has been

why this wonderful amenity has worked so well for decades with limited controls and with the carefully considered controls and community education ideas from the OBUGA Forum will continue as such without the need for closures.

If those councillors, who are considering supporting the closure of boating, must also consider closures for other activities that have actually caused injury and death within the Shire such as surfing, swimming, crossing the road, cycling, sports, trail use, rock based fishing, sailing, heavy haulage through town, the non-funding of 40 zone illuminated school signs, and the list goes on..... You may have the power to limit many of these activities. Don't forget boating has well accepted rules (known by the helmsmen – but maybe not known by you the councillors, or the non-boating community). Please have some faith in this responsible part of this community. We are not “cowboys”.

This heavy handed and ill-conceived “closure” motion by its inception has unacceptably delayed any risk mitigation implementations by distracting all OBUGA representatives. We would have good controls in place now if this closure idea was not forced upon us and our views misrepresented to you. This has also re ignited ill feeling and suspicion between user groups members that by enlarge had been suppressed through group interaction and cooperation since former boating closure attempts by the Surf Club in 1998 and 2008. The current Surf Club executive I know is filled by some good people that I have volunteered alongside, but whom are under pressure from some very influential associated people. I personally applaud Surf Club President George Mumford for having the guts to make the public statement as seen in the Albany Extra November 21 “It does not affect us (Surf Club) one way or another if the ban goes ahead”. George is a great guy whom I'm sure with his continued leadership will get the Surf Club back on track to be a community wide focused group rather than a group perceived to be focused only on their own part of the community.

Please allow the OBUGA forum to finalise and implement its good community derived ideas, and allow the Ocean Beach community to flourish by voting for the signage/education (Pt 1) and for the grant application for alternative boat launching site (Pt3) but AGAINST the “ban the boats idea” (Pt 2 of the motion). Have it rescinded or separated from the adjoining notions.

Other considerations:

- It is difficult to believe the promises of 3 to 4 million in 2 to 3 years given that you are voting for grant monies for a feasibility study and especially that Peaceful Bay finger Jetty has taken 10

years and Augusta marina has cost \$34 million and taken 20 years. It will be a long time to discriminate against the boating community;

- Boat numbers may be small (88 registered through DRG) but these support friends, mates and families (I have a call list of 22 persons to crew my private boat);
- Damage to tourism and businesses and would be a poor precedent on several levels;
- Potential damage Denmark Sea Rescue morale (gee.... the volunteers who train hard to rescue all recreational water users are mainly from the local boating fraternity);
- Pushes the perceived problem away but will make a problem at Parry's and Hartman's;
- Only one near miss in last ten years (at least)

You have heard emotifying statements from the closure pushers:

- Some old supposed incidents? were re-stated. **Truth:** That is why controls/zones were enacted in 2008.
- It does not comply with the Australian Standard (separations) **Truth:** there is no Australian Standard but a guideline that states there is no legal obligation to follow;
- It is not a Gazetted boat ramp. **Truth:** The DoT do not Gazette boat ramps. The 8 knot speed restrictions and the no boating zone are Gazetted by the DoT. It is a recognised beach launching facility.
- Ten boat movements per day. **Truth:** far less - probably over the proposed closures less than two (not a lot of combined time at 30 second per transit);
- 20,000 people at the beach (maybe True but spread over 6 weeks then spread through the day in comings and goings and not all swimmers or in the water at the same time;
- "We can't control where people swim", **Truth:** The shire funds lifeguards to do this, better signage will help also...!
- "Visiting boaters are all Cowboys". **Truth:** they are all licensed and probably would be offended by that statement.
- "The boater was found "GUILTY". **Truth:** he received an infringement because the DoT felt obliged to, but once questioned it was withdrawn. You can only be found Guilty by a Judge.
- "I attended the OBUGA meetings and heard lots about hazards, signage and risk mitigations but not one person mentioned anything about alternate boat launching". **Complete Mis-Truth:**

		<p>– I personally questioned the CEO early in First OBUGA meeting on the proposed feasibility study grant and that lead into discussion on “McGeary’s” and a location near Lights beach but most of us realists knew an alternative would be 10+ years away so we concentrated on what we could do NOW and the consensus was that the beach should be kept open for all;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “I want to turn back the risk dial”. Truth: there has been no independent comprehensive risk assessment of recreation activities at Ocean Beach for you to consider. The perceived risk is a personal opinion. - “Risk to Shire”. Truth: For the perceived risk (boat v. person in water) this is on Department of Transport area or responsibility. - “if the closure is supported we will have a better chance at funding”??? Really? Truth: The user groups will support the shire for funding applications even without closures. - “When there is a coronial enquiry the coroner will look at your (Councillor) decision (Scaremongering??) Truth: Councillors have very strong legislated protections. - “Let’s not forget a child was killed up north last week by a propeller”. Truth: This tragic circumstance stated by the Shire President has nothing to do with our circumstance and should not have been shamefully used to emotify the issue. The child was a passenger, an accident on the vessel resulted in all occupants ejected and the tragedy occurred. - “I Found Mike Neunuebel’s comments interesting” (CEO Re Mike of South Coast Surfing Lessons not having an issue with boats at Ocean Beach) “it is at odds with what the surf club is saying (from whom?) and we may have been here in different circumstance”. Truth: – yes – All Ocean Beach users groups including the father of the girl involved in the near miss are concerned about the near miss but don’t want to exclude or discriminate against any of the user groups and will work for a harmonious solution.
S34	<p>██████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p>Council is seeking public comment on a proposal to remove the restrictions under its Property Local Law which currently does not allow any motorised vessel (boats) from launching and/or being retrieved from the existing “over beach” ramp at Ocean Beach for the following dates each year; other than by emergency service vessels (Sea Rescue and/or Life Saving); 20 December through to 31 January (inclusive); and Easter Friday through to Easter Monday (inclusive) I wish to make a comment on the above proposal. I think removal of the above restrictions is a great</p>

		<p>idea. I grew up in Denmark and swam at Ocean Beach on numerous occasions, including one day where my siblings and I were caught in the rip around the rocks. It was a very scary experience one that I would not like to repeat again. Swimming should be banned from that area, allowing the boaties and surfies to use that zone. Surely common sense can prevail, allowing the beach to be used by all in harmony with each other. The surfers use the rip by the rocks to get out to the waves and surely they and the boats should be able to use the zone safely being respectful of one another.</p>
S35	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Denmark Sea Rescue Group (DSRG) thank the shire for requesting comment on this issue. DSRG fully endorse the recommendations released by the Ocean Beach Use Group forum as presented to the Shire of Denmark (dated 9 November 2015), and will continue to support the OBUG forum and individually to promote safe use of the Ocean Beach facility.</p> <p>DSRG also endorses the shire push for an alternate boat launching facility within the Ocean Beach vicinity, and offers the Shire of Denmark DSRG assistance to investigate and recommend the best alternate location.</p>
S36	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>We do not support any closure of the boat ramp and suggest that all parties should work together as we have done in the past.</p>
S37	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I support the idea that ocean beach should be available to all beach users and that with the implementation of adequate signage and the use of marker buoys etc. boats can continue to launch there safely with little or no risk to other beach users.</p> <p>Many sensible options as to how these measures could be implemented have been made in submissions from OBUG and other stakeholders and in my view these should be given proper consideration by council as the current situation has created a great deal of dissatisfaction and uncertainty for many beach users and in the wider community.</p>
S38	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Please keep Ocean Beach open for the duration of each year as it was always previously.</p>
S39	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I have been launching my boats at Ocean Beach since moving here in 1998. I enjoy fishing and taking my sons out, introducing them to the southern ocean and the areas along the Denmark coast.</p> <p>I have never had a concern about the safety of beach users when launch or retrieving our boat. It has been a real disappointment not being able to fish over the Christmas period.</p>

		Ocean Beach is there for all users as long as everyone applies safety and responsibility.
S40	<p>██████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p>Prof Sir David Spiegelhalter, Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk, University of Cambridge might well point out that an hour of TV watching a day, or a bacon sandwich a couple of times a week, is more dangerous than allowing a beach to be shared by surfers and boaties. Certainly there are risks involved, but the issue is one of balance between risk and return. Although risk can be reduced by sensible management, it can never be entirely limited ... witness the occasional head-on collisions when drivers drift across the double white line.</p> <p>Let's return the status quo at Ocean Beach ... preferably, but not necessarily, adding whatever risk reducing measures can be agreed by the user groups.</p>
S41	<p>██████████ ██████████ ██████████████████ ████████████████████</p>	<p>I am writing to show my support for the reopening of Ocean Beach to year-round boat launching and to return the site to its status prior to the Council's closure decision in December 2014.</p> <p>This decision to close Ocean Beach to boat launching (Dec-Jan + Easter) was a knee jerk reaction to a single incident rather than a considered action taken after proper consultation.</p> <p>The decision by the former Council demonstrated complete disregard for the views of the many Ocean Beach stakeholders and contempt for Council's own Community Consultation Policy.</p> <p>I applaud the efforts of Cr Gillies and the individuals involved in the key stakeholder groups to work together to overturn this decision and of the current Council in resolving to seek further public comment on this issue.</p> <p>The formation of the Ocean Beach User Group is an indication that the various users ARE prepared to work together to find a solution that benefits the wider community.</p> <p>OBUG constituents Denmark Boating and Angling Club, Denmark Sea Rescue Group, Denmark Surf Life Saving Club and South Coast Surfing Lessons have come together with the aim of strengthening ties between the groups and to promote education, understanding and consideration between users so that Ocean Beach can be safely enjoyed by all.</p> <p>OBUG has prepared a list of recommendations for the reopening, including shared and exclusion zones, specialist signage, educational materials, risk management and safety procedures.</p> <p>If these measures are implemented Ocean Beach can continue to be accessible to swimmers, surfers, fishermen and boaters; until a viable alternative launching site is identified and a dedicated facility built</p>

		<i>(I do not support McGeary's Rock as a viable alternative launching site).</i>
S42	██████████ ████████████████████	In regard to the launching of boats at ocean beach. I support the unrestricted opening of boat launching at ocean beach. As a resident of Denmark for nearly 40 years I found it foolish to close access in the original decision. As a tourist town I believe it crucial to encourage recreational activities in our town. The new decision should not only open up boating to ocean beach but should also include vehicle access to ocean beach to encourage all visitors and locals alike to enjoy a beautiful natural resource that we have.
S43	██████████ ██████████ ████████████████████ ██████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████	The DBAC strongly supports the re-opening of the Boat Launching area at Ocean Beach at peak times over Xmas and Easter and believes the over beach launching area at Ocean Beach should remain open to the boating public. DBAC Inc constitution states "To Promote and encourage the sport of angling" As members of the Ocean Beach Users Group we feel that consideration was not given to the initiatives of the working group. When you have a group of experienced users of the area plus DSRG, DSLC, Dot, Denmark Surf School, Albany Board Riders Association working collectively and continuing to work together to find solutions and promote strategies to make the area safer, it makes no sense to have the launching area closed over the Xmas and Easter periods. WA Recfishwest, who are the peak body for recreational fishing, supports fair and equitable access to what is a long term boat launching location and I urge the current council to support these views. The DBAC Inc committee and its members are seeking council <i>to re-open</i> Ocean Beach to Over Beach Launching
S44	██████████████ ██████████████ ██████████████ ██████████████████	Recfishwest is the recognised peak body representing the interest of over 740,000 recreational fishers in Western Australia. Recfishwest are a not-for-profit community based organisation that strived to ensure access to high quality fishing experiences are maintained and enjoyed, as an integral part of the WA lifestyle. We commend the Shire of Denmark on its proposal to reinstate approval to allow launching and retrieving of boats at Ocean Beach year and we support continued shared access arrangements to this important community resource. Access to sustainable recreational fishing resources is a core business area for Recfishwest, and the Shire of Denmark's previous decision to close the Ocean Beach Boating Facility over peak holiday periods was

		<p>not supported by Recfishwest.</p> <p>The Department of Transport (DoT) has responsibility for marine safety, and the safety of all users is factored into the DoT's management arrangements for the Ocean Beach Boating Facility. The current management arrangements have resulted in no contacts between swimmers and boats in the history of the facility. Legislation protecting swimmers and other aquatic user groups already exists and all users of the shared zone have a duty of care to take responsibility for their own actions when accessing this zone. Prior to the decision to suspend launching at Ocean Beach during peak tourist periods, the Department of Transport consulted Ocean Beach stakeholders who resolved the matter without the need for exclusion or restrictions to boat launching. The Department of Transport committed to providing improved signage and education about the shared use zone at Ocean Beach, and the Denmark Boating and Angling Club were working with the Denmark Surf Life Saving Club to provide improved communications between income vessels and surf life savers. Recfishwest supports these community driven solutions.</p> <p>In speaking with local community members, Recfishwest has heard overwhelming support for the council's proposal to reinstate approval to launch and retrieve vessels from Ocean Beach year round. We applaud the Council's common sense approach and will continue to support fair and equitable access to Ocean Beach for the entire Denmark community and visitors alike.</p>
S45	<p>██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████</p>	<p>Having been present at the Surf Club during the so-called "near miss" event that sparked the original controversy and debate that led to the decision to temporarily disallow boat launching at Ocean Beach during peak tourist times I feel I should make a comment.</p> <p>At the time I did not think the incident was as serious as reported and as I was one of the first on the scene I thought there was some hysteria and over reaction. I quickly left the scene having ascertained there were no injuries or dismembered surfers and the more senior and experienced SLS members remained to talk to and calm the parents.</p> <p>Now that there has been no boat launching over this Christmas tourist season I must say that I am now in agreement with closing the beach to boat launching during these busy tourist periods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no congestion of vehicles & trailers on the beach • no issues with jet skis and the often anti social behaviours • maximum safe beach for surfers, boarders and swimmers • no boat/vehicle threats to beach users • no boat threats to ocean users <p>I am not anti boats just that I don't think they should be launching from Ocean Beach during the</p>

		<p>Christmas or Easter holiday periods. Nor do I think the vehicles and trailers should be left parked on the beach or blocking the access track at any time.</p> <p>Ocean Beach is only a very small beach (especially when the Inlet has been artificially breached as the inlet mouth cuts off the Nullaki side) with limited safe swimming areas (sand banks, tides, holes, gutters, rips). There are better boat launching options - Parry's Beach, Peaceful Bay.</p> <p>Let's keep ocean beach "clean and green" during the peek holidays!</p>
S46	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>As a rate payer, boating recreational angler, member of the Denmark Sea Rescue affected by Councils decision to restrict boat launching and retrieval at Ocean Beach, I respect Council had obligation to safety and Public Liability. It is unfortunate this measure has caused angst and disharmony throughout our community.</p> <p>To reinstate the rights of two valuable community clubs to safety coexist at the same location, without restriction to either, it is urged council, guided by Department of Transport instruction, prepare and present a required safety strategy necessitating participating of all members and committees of the surf and angling clubs, implement, control and respect.</p> <p>With these supervised measures in place, there is no reason the restrictions to boat launching and retrieval, 20 December to 31 January, Easter Friday to Easter Monday should continue.</p>
S47	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>My name is Kaine Chrimes and I am writing to you about the proposal to close the Ocean Beach boat launching area.</p> <p>Personally I am shattered about the idea, I am 19 years old, I was born here in Denmark and have grown up using the Ocean Beach launching area with my dad and other local friends.</p> <p>I am now old enough to use this area myself. At the beginning of this year I purchased my own jet ski, which is registered and insured.</p> <p>Myself and my dad use the boat launching area at least on a regular basis, to launch our ski's either to go fishing or surfing around at the Back Beach bombies or Lights Beach.</p> <p>If this facility is to be shut down It will go from a 2 minute drive to a 30 minute drive to the nearest boat launching ramp at Parry's Beach.</p> <p>Having to launch at Parry's would mean I would lose being able to get to the fishing spots that I have grown up with and know that are safe.</p> <p>Also I feel it will make it very dangerous for myself to ride my jet ski all the way from Parry's to my usual favourite surf spots near Lights Beach and Ocean Beach.</p> <p>I will I also lose being able to go down to Ocean Beach in the summer after work when the day's are longer and go for a quick trawl on my jet ski PARRY'S BEACH IS TOO FAR AWAY AND I DONT KNOW THE</p>

		<p>AREA SO THIS WILL BE DANGEROUS TO ATTEMP FOR ME.</p> <p>We should be able to come up with a plan that will keep the boat owners happy and they can still launch their boats and the surf club, better signage would be of help, there are more signs telling people dog are not allowed, than for public safety signs.</p> <p>Please consider the point of view from locals who live here, work here and want to be able to do what we love to do in our spare time.</p>
S48	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I do highly recommend that the ridiculous closing of Boat Launching and Retrievals at Ocean Beach from 20 December through to 31 January and East Friday through to Monday should be scrapped.</p> <p>Being a Major Tourist Town Boat Launching & Retrievals at Ocean Beach should remain open all year around.</p> <p>I am a long standing resident of Denmark, I came here in January 1953 and have been a local businessman and employing staff since September 1977.</p> <p>Boating and Fishing has been one of mine and families recreational past time and I would hope to see that continue forever.</p> <p>I know there has never been a boating accident or boating loss of life at Ocean Beach, I do however recommend that adequate signage be kept up to date with all the required safety information available to the Public.</p>
S49	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I do highly recommend that the closing of Boat Launching and Retrievals at Ocean Beach from 20 December through to 31 January and East Friday through to Monday should be over ruled.</p> <p>Being a Major Tourist Town Boat Launching & Retrievals at Ocean Beach should remain open all year around.</p> <p>I am a long standing resident of Denmark I came here in September 1977.</p> <p>Boating and Fishing is one of mine and my husband</p> <p>S, my two sons and my grandchildren's favourite past times. One of the many reasons we love Denmark.</p>
S50	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>After a preliminary assessment of the four Tenderers for the Ocean Beach Study we note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All four applicants are on our (Dept. of Transport) Contractor Panel and qualified for this type of work; • MP Rogers have experience/background knowledge of the study area; • DoT would have no objections to MP Rogers being selected as the preferred tenderer.

S51	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>I would like to comment on the temporary closure of ocean beach to boat launching. Re Resolution 291214.</p> <p>Point (1) I am baffled by the risk assessment process obtained by the shire and believe somewhere the details are flawed. As I see it a similar risk assessment, done on swimming in the channel or surfing at ocean beach, would indicate a far greater level of risk. There has to my knowledge never been an injury from a conflict between boat and swimmer. At the same time there have been many incidents involving swimmers or surfers, some of which resulted in death. Just approximately one week after the boating incident my son in law rescued a drowning Non swimmer from the rip in the channel. I am not sure if this incident was recorded or not but surf life saving was involved. My point is how can you say given the statistics that the risk of conflict with a boat is too great when history says the risk from swimming or surfing is much greater.</p> <p>Point (2) Resolution 291214 point 6. "" Denmark life guards will be distracted from their primary task. "" Point 8. "" Given the low volume and infrequent nature."" This does not make sense to me. We are talking a very low number of boats which usually leave before sun up when no one is on the beach And return around midday usually within a 2 hour period.</p> <p>Point (3) I fail to see how John Sampson can say the council could find themselves in a difficult legal position since this has never happened with past incidents involving Swimmers or surfers. What is the difference between these two situations. Is not the water the responsibility of DOT anyhow??</p> <p>Point (4) Why was Ocean Beach Users Group formed when their recommendations where not taken into account.</p>
S52	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Keep the boat ramp open year around, SHARED USE sign in place on rock.</p>

S53		
S54		

Denmark - Ocean Beach

Marine Safety Information



CLOSED WATERS - Motorised Vessels

- The Motorised Vessels Prohibited area extends in line with the onshore guidance posts for a distance of 275m east-north-east and 550m north to the Nullaki Peninsula shoreline.
- All Motorised Vessels, including boat launching or retrieval and personal watercraft use, is prohibited within this area.

8 KNOT SPEED LIMIT - Shared Use Area

- The 8 knot speed limit area extends in line with the onshore guidance posts for a distance of 275m east-north-east and 135m south to the rocky shoreline.
- Boat launching and retrieval is confined to the beach south of the onshore guidance posts within the 8 knot speed limit area.

Vessel skippers responsibilities

- Vessel skippers must transit with caution and provide sufficient warning of intended passage.
- Vessel skippers must allow sufficient time for board users to vacate the area prior to transiting through.

Board users responsibilities

- Board users must make every attempt to keep clear of and to not impede the path of transiting vessels.

Denmark Sea Rescue Group

REMEMBER TO LOG ON / OFF!

Call sign VMR613
 VHF channel 16, 22
 27MHz channel 86, 88, 94
 Phone: 9848 1311

Further Information

1. <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/>
2. Marine Operations Centre: Ph 1300 863 308
3. DoT Regional Office Albany: Ph 9892 7333



REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT	Protected Waters lakes, rivers, inlets & estuaries except Lake Argyle	0 - 2 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore	2 - 5 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore	Over 5 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore
RECREATIONAL SKIPPER'S TICKET The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 4.5kwp (6hp) must hold a RST.	✓	✓	✓	✓
BILGE PUMP / BAILER All vessels must carry a bilge pump. A vessel under 7 metres may carry a bailer in lieu of a bilge pump.	✓	✓	✓	✓
FIRE EXTINGUISHER Vessels with an inboard engine or carrying hydrocarbon consuming appliances, must carry an approved fire extinguisher.	✓	✓	✓	✓
ANCHOR AND LINE An efficient anchor and line must be carried.	—	✓	✓	✓
PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE A lifejacket bearing the label PFD Type 1 or the Australian standard AS 1512 or AS 4758 - Level 100 (or higher) must be carried for every person onboard.	—	✓	✓	✓
RED AND ORANGE FLARES (in date) At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange smoke flares must be carried. Two parachute flares may be carried in lieu of two red handheld flares and an orange smoke canister may be carried in lieu of the smoke flares.	—	✓	✓	✓
EPIRB (in date) A 406 MHz EPIRB registered with AMSA bearing the standard AS/NZS 4280.1 must be carried if proceeding more than 2 miles from the mainland shore or more than 400 metres from an island located more than 2 miles from the mainland shore.	—	—	✓	✓
PARACHUTE FLARES (in date) A minimum of two parachute flares must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the mainland shore.	—	—	—	✓
MARINE RADIO A marine radio must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the mainland shore. The radio can be 27 MHz VHF or HF.	—	—	—	✓