



AK Have Your Say



Proposed improvements to council's navigation bylaw and control

Vessels operating on Auckland's navigable water provide enjoyment, enriching cultural experiences, sporting events and offering essential transport services. Every day, people use these waters for activities such as boating, kayaking, kiteboarding, swimming, fishing, ferrying passengers and cargo.

The shared use of Auckland's waterways can however bring risks. For example, the failure to wear personal flotation devices (lifejackets) on small vessels, non-compliance with safe boating rules, vessel activity in swimming areas, illegal mooring and transportation of hazardous cargo can lead to fatalities, injury, collisions, and property damage.

The [Navigation Bylaw 2021](#) and Control help to minimise these risks and ensure maritime safety on Auckland's navigable waters. They form part of a wider framework about protection of maritime safety, marine life and the environment including the [Maritime Transport Act 1994](#), [Maritime Rules](#), [Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978](#) and [Resource Management Act 1991](#).

Proposal to improve council's approach

We recently checked how the rules are working and identified improvements. Key improvements proposed in comparison to the existing Bylaw and Control include to:

- require the wearing of personal flotation devices on small vessels while underway to further reduce the risk of fatalities
- introduce rules to protect the public from risks associated with emerging technologies and novel craft, for example, motorized hydrofoil boards, flight boards and tow foiling
- make updates to legacy mooring licences to ensure all moorings licence holders are subject to the same terms and conditions for fair and equal use
- include long-standing Harbourmaster Directions in the Ferry Terminal Basin to ease ongoing tension over space sharing between public transport ferries and cruise ships
- establish an exclusion zone for powered vessels around Auckland Airport to address aviation and maritime safety risks
- introduce exclusion zones to better protect high-use or sensitive areas, including Horne Rock, Tāmaki River Rowing Precinct, Harbour Bridge, and Simpson Rock
- revoke 14 access lane controls that are now rarely used by the public
- make clarifications sought by the Harbourmaster and Maritime New Zealand.

We want to know what you think

From **4 May** through to **7 June 2026**, we want you to tell us what you think about the proposal to improve our Bylaw and Control about vessels on Auckland's navigable waters.

Visit akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ for more information and to find out how to give your feedback in writing, in-person or by phone. Free internet access is available at our libraries.