NEW LAWS TARGET BOAT TRAILER PARKING IN PROBLEM AREAS

Minister for Roads Duncan Gay and Minister for Local Government Paul Toole today welcomed new measures to help councils better manage boat trailers clogging up suburban streets.

Under the changes that passed NSW Parliament overnight, boat trailers can be impounded if they are left in the same place for more than 28 days, but only in target areas where they are causing problems.

Importantly, the new laws give councils flexibility to opt-in to the scheme. This means large areas across the State where on-street parking of boat trailers is not a community issue will be unaffected.

Mr Gay said the changes are aimed at stopping the repeat boat trailer parking offenders, freeing up valuable parking spaces for residents, especially in high density waterside locations such as Drummoyne and Vaucluse.

“In some cases residents have had boats parked outside their homes and apartments for months on end by people who live outside the area – this is about striking a balance between boat owners and other residents,” Mr Gay said.

Mr Toole said the NSW Government understands that local communities across regional and metropolitan NSW have different needs and concerns.

“We are letting Councils make the decisions about what is best for their local community. They will have the ability to decide what areas need to be targeted, and will be able to adjust areas over time if needed,” Mr Toole said.

“In areas where Councils apply the new laws boat owners will be on notice. If they don't have a residential parking permit for their boat trailer, they will only be able park on the same block for up to 28 days.”

“Boat owners will be warned and then will have 15 days to move their boat trailer and avoid it being impounded,” Mr Toole said.

“Rolling a boat trailer a metre down the road won’t comply. Under the new scheme, if an owner moves a boat trailer – it must be shifted at least a block away.

“The NSW Government has also set aside $5 million to help establish off-street boat
trailer parking and will work with local councils, boating and storage industries to identify opportunities.”

The new laws complement changes already made to let Council rangers issue fines for unregistered trailers, and give Councils the ability to issue parking permits to residents with a boat trailer.

The Office of Local Government and Roads and Maritime Services will assist Councils to implement the new laws which are expected to commence in early 2016.

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