

**Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Environment**

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Ms Rebecca White
Member for Lyons
Via Clerk of the House
Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms White

I write in response to your question on behalf of your constituent in relation to the discharge of onboard sewage from vessels at the Triabunna marina and mercury in the marina and Mercury Passage. I am advised the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has not received any complaints about sewage discharge in Triabunna.

I understand the discharge of sewage into the sea from boats is subject to requirements established under the *Marine-Related Incidents (MARPOL Implementation) Act 2020* and should be considered a last resort. The Director, EPA has issued two Sewage Management Directives that prescribe where owners and operators of certain boats may and may not release disinfected and untreated sewage into local waterways.

The directives aim to protect the environment and public health and have been in place for about a decade. They were developed in consultation with boating organisations and the Director of Public Health. Importantly, the directives do not promote disposing of sewage at sea. If boat owners are unable to treat their wastewater onboard, that wastewater should be contained on the vessel until it can be properly disposed of on land.

The Triabunna Marina is owned by Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council. If vessels are discharging sewage in the marina, it is Council's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Sewage Management Directive. However, the EPA will assist Council as necessary on request. The Directive does allow sewage to be discharged in certain areas of the Mercury Passage. This applies to all vessels, including the Maria Island Ferry.

I am advised MAST has previously part-funded sewage pump out stations at marinas, including at the Margate Marina. If the Council wishes to explore this option, they are encouraged to make an application for funding under MAST's Small Boating Fund to help address the issue of blackwater discharge. A link to the application form is available here:

<https://mast.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Small-Projects-Fund-Application-and-Criteria-Form-2023.pdf>

Thank you for your question and your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Parks and Environment