**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**DECLARATION OF BOATING ACTIVITY EXEMPTION**

# *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic)

Safe Transport Victoria makes the following declaration under section 203(3) of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic).

For the purposes of boating activity conducted by Surfing Victoria on Coastal Waters, persons and vessels involved in the Surfing Victoria 2025-26 Season as outlined in Table 1 are exempt from the following requirements:

**State Rules made under the Marine Act 1988**

1. Clause 2(a) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a person in the water
2. Clause 2(c) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of another vessel
3. Clause 4(a) – must not exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of the water’s edge
4. Clause 19(a) – an observer must be used when towing a person

**Waterway Rules made under the Marine Safety Act 2010 / Marine Act 1988**

1. ^Clause 11.1 of Schedule11 - Torquay – 5 knot speed restriction area – Horseshoe Bend Rd to Rocky Point within 200 metres
2. \*Clause 15.2 of Schedule 15 - Urquharts Bluff - 5 knot speed restriction areas
3. \*Clause 15.3 of Schedule 15 - Urquharts Bluff – area prohibited to vessels
4. \*Clause 15.4(a) of Schedule 15 - Urquharts Bluff – vessels only area adjacent public convenience building extending 200 metres

**Marine Safety Regulations 2012**

1. Regulation 60(a) – vessel master must not engage in towing unless an observer is on board
2. Regulation 61(2) – vessel master must not operate unless vessel equipped with items specified (lifejackets for persons onboard & being towed) on coastal waters
3. Regulation 66(1) – person must wear a lifejacket of type specified at all times when underway on coastal waters
4. Regulation 69 – person being towed must wear lifejacket
5. Regulation 70(1) – vessel master must not operate the vessel unless persons on board when underway or being towed wear a lifejacket
6. Regulation 70(3) – vessel master must not allow vessel to tow person unless wearing lifejacket

Subject to the conditions detailed below:

* Masters of personal watercraft (PWC) rescue vessels are only exempt from items 1 to 4 and 9 for all events and items 5, 6 and 7 for events at that location. Exemptions for items 1 & 2 only apply when within 50 metres of a competing person or other PWC rescue vessel. They must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a person in the water or other vessels not associated with the event should they enter the event area.
* Masters of PWC rescue vessels are only exempt from items 10, 13 to 14 for the duration of the events when retrieving or rescuing a person without a lifejacket from the water.
* Competitors are only exempt from items 11 and 12 for the duration of the events and item 8 for events at that location.
* All PWC operators must wear a lifejacket at all times when operating.
* The exemptions apply from 6:30am to 6:00pm on the dates and locations as specified in Table 1 below.
* The exemptions apply provided the stated safety controls and undertakings detailed in the application form and associated documentation are adhered to.

# Table 1: Surfing Victoria 2025-26 Season

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Day** | **Event** | **Location** | **Back-up Location(s)** |
| 1-31 July 2025 | Tournament Window | 50 Year Storm Big Wave Event | Bells Beach |  |
| 16-21 September 2025 | Tuesday - Sunday | WSL Bells Beach Longboard Classic | Bells Beach | Torquay |
| 30 Sep – 5 October 2025 | Tuesday - Sunday | Rip Curl Gromsearch / Australian Boardriders Battle | Woolamai Surf Beach | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands |
| 18-19 October 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Classic | Bells Beach | Jan Juc |
| 21-25 October 2025 | Tuesday - Saturday | Australian Stand-Up Paddleboard Titles | Woolamai Surf Beach | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands |
| 8-9 November 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Micro Groms Cup | ^Torquay | Jan Juc |
| 15-16 November 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Great Ocean Road Women’s Surf Fest | Lorne |  |
| 6 December 2025 | Saturday | Bolt Blowers Invitational | Jan Juc | ^Torquay |
| 31 Jan - 1 Feb 2026 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Jnr Surfing Series Rd. 1 | Bells Beach | Jan Juc |
| 7-8 February 2026 | Saturday - Sunday | Woorangalook Vic Koori Surf Titles | \*Urquharts Bluff |  |
| 21-22 February 2026 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Longboard Titles Rd 1 | Woolamai Surf Beach | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands |
| 26 February - 4 March 2026 | Thursday - Wednesday | Phillip Island Pro | Woolamai Surf Beach | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands |
| 14-15 Mar 2026 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Junior Surfing Series Rd 2 | Gunnamatta | Rye Back Beach  West Head (Gunnery)  Shoreham |
| 29 Mar - 11 Apr April 2026 | Tournament Window | Rip Curl Pro | Bells Beach |  |
| 2-3 May 2026 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Longboard Titles Rd 2 | Pt Impossible | 13th Beach |
| 7-10 May 2026 | Thursday - Sunday | Vic Junior Surfing Series Round 3 | Woolamai Surf Beach | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands |
| 16 May 2026 | Saturday | Victorian Teams Titles | Jan Juc | ^Torquay |
| 17 May 2026 | Sunday | Victorian Under 21 State Titles | Jan Juc | ^Torquay |
| 23 May 2026 | Saturday | Victorian SUP Surfing Titles | Pt Impossible | 13th Beach |
| 24 May 2026 | Sunday | Victorian Masters Titles | Jan Juc | ^Torquay |
| 29-31 May 2026 | Friday - Sunday | Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles | Bells Beach | Jan Juc |

Ref: 1663-2025-BAE

**TIM PULLYBLANK**

Manager, Safety Assurance

Delegate of Safe Transport Victoria

Click or tap to enter a date.