

ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YACHT SQUADRON

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Dear Members,

I am very pleased to announce that last week an amendment to the local government act (LGA) was passed in both the upper and lower house of state parliament that has paved the way for the removal of councils ability to charge rates on individual marina and hardstand berths within our club.

The amendment removes Councils ability to collect fixed or minimum rates for each berth. This will now mean that marinas are treated the same as caravan parks and residential parks where the total rates are calculated on the whole property. The exact figures are yet to be confirmed but in essence the property will be given a value based on the Valuer General's determination and this will be multiplied by a differential rate in the dollar that will not exceed the standard commercial rate.

This will now mean that the Management Committee will agree on a fair apportionment of rates across all berths and tenants of the property after we receive our rates notice. As this decision is not retrospective we anticipate these changes coming into effect for the next financial year 2014/15.

We foresee that this will result in a considerable saving for all berth owners but particularly those with smaller berths or hardstands that have been unfairly subject to a minimum rate imposed by the council's revenue raising use of the current LGA legislation.

This has been a major win for common sense and has finally righted a very unfair and inequitable situation that threatened the viability for every boat owner to enjoy the sailing and boating lifestyle which would have ultimately had a flow on effect to our club. This has only come from persistent lobbying from the CYCSA, the Boating Industry Association of SA and the management of RSAYS. It has also been heavily supported by local Member for Port Adelaide, Dr Susan Close, many of the City of Port Adelaide Enfield Councillors, State Politicians and in particular Independent Member of the Legislative Council, the Hon. John Darley MLC, who introduced the Amendment Bill to parliament and ensured that it received bipartisan support.

I look forward to providing further updates on this issue as they come to hand.

Andrew McDowell

General Manager, RSAYS