

Transport
for NSW

NSW Boating Now Program

Round 4 Guidelines

December 2021



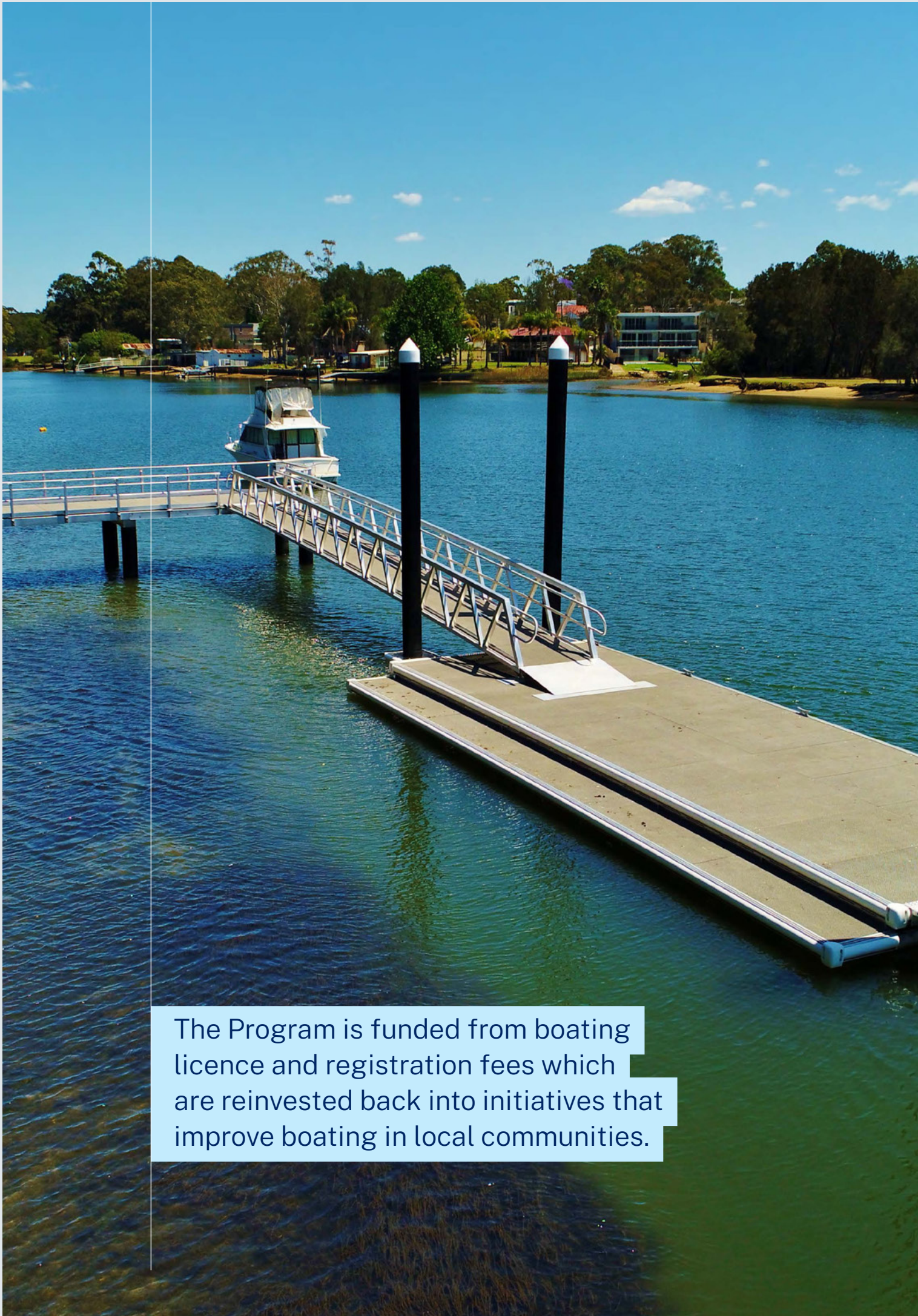
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The Program is funded from boating licence and registration fees which are reinvested back into initiatives that improve boating in local communities.

About the Boating Now Program

The NSW Boating Now Program provides grant funding to local councils and other organisations ('delivery partners') for maritime infrastructure and facilities across NSW for safe, accessible and enjoyable recreational and commercial boating. This investment also supports broader economic and social benefits for local communities and visitors.

Since its inception in 2014, the Boating Now Program has already supported over 330 projects for the benefit of the general boating public across NSW.

1. Boating Now Round 4

The NSW Government's [Maritime Infrastructure Plan](#) (MIP), released in December 2018, outlines the strategic approach and commitment to the Boating Now Program providing ongoing support for maritime infrastructure owned by councils and other maritime partners.

In December 2021, the NSW Government announced a \$28 million investment for Boating Now Round 4 (Round 4). Round 4 funding will build on previous Boating Now investments, and will benefit boaters and communities across the State by:

- **Improving the boating experience** for customers by identifying projects that give waterway users better access, storage and boating facilities
- **Improving safety** by improving the quality of infrastructure and improving safe access to NSW waterways
- **Enabling economic development** by supporting increased boating participation and growth in boating-related tourism and marine industries
- **Shaping successful places** by improving public amenity and facilitating the improvement and activation of harbours and foreshore precincts.

Funding for Round 4 is subject to budget approval and TfNSW has the discretion to not move forward with the entire \$28 million for Boating Now Round 4 if the Program funding is not approved.

2. Who can apply for a grant

Applications are invited from councils, government agencies, community groups and the private sector.

To be eligible for funding, the applicant must also own or have tenure over the land on which the project is located. Alternatively the applicant must provide clear evidence of landowner's support, approval or consent to carry out the proposed work at the site.

3. Types of projects eligible for Round 4 grant funding

Round 4 will continue to support boating infrastructure and amenity improvements throughout NSW but with an ongoing emphasis on projects that address the priority infrastructure needs in the Maritime Infrastructure Plan.

The types of projects that will be considered for funding under Boating Now Round 4 are summarised below:

3.1 Boating infrastructure and amenity improvements

Funding will continue to be allocated to boating infrastructure and amenity projects that improve the boating experience for the general boating public, including:

- **Boating access improvements** such as boat ramps, wharves, jetties, pontoons, and non-powered vessel access facilities. This may also include minor dredging works to improve access to these boating facilities.

- **Boating amenity and service improvements** such as fuel and water services, sewage pump-out facilities, toilets, car and trailer parking, dinghy storage, vessel wash-down facilities, lighting and signage (including electronic variable message signs (VMS)). Other placemaking improvements such as fish cleaning tables and pathways will also be considered when linked to broader boating infrastructure upgrades and where boaters are the primary beneficiaries.
- **Strategic plans, detailed designs and feasibility studies** that identify the priority and longer term boating infrastructure needs and support future boating infrastructure investment.

Further details on the types of projects that have been funded in the past are provided as case studies below and can also be found on the [Boating Now](#) website.

3.2 Priority infrastructure needs at key investment locations

The Maritime Infrastructure Plan identifies priority infrastructure needs at 14 key investment locations along the NSW coast which are expected to provide the greatest benefit to NSW boaters. A high priority will be given to supporting projects that align with these priority infrastructure needs. Further details on the priority infrastructure needs at the 14 key investment locations are provided in the Round 4 Question and Answers (Q&A) document.





4. How to apply for a Boating Now Round 4 grant

The Round 4 grant application process will continue to support delivery partners throughout the process, from project development through to delivery.

The two-stage application process enables the Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) in Transport for NSW to provide guidance to help applicants refine their proposals during the ROI stage ahead of the formal application stage. It involves:

1. **A call for registrations of interest (ROI)** where organisations are invited to submit initial proposals for project(s) by **COB 28 February 2022**. Subject matter experts in the MIDO will review and provide feedback on ROI applications to help applicants develop their proposals ahead of the formal application stage. We encourage early submission of ROI forms to allow enough time for the MIDO to provide feedback on your application in February 2022.

ROI forms can be downloaded from www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/key-build-program/boating-now/ and should be submitted through the online portal which is available on this webpage. In the event a ROI application is received after the closing date, TfNSW has discretion to consider whether to accept the late application provided that acceptance of a late application will not affect the integrity of the Round 4 process.

2. **A formal application stage**, which is only open to applicants who submitted a ROI form, will commence in **March 2022**. Applicants will then be required to prepare and submit formal applications, taking into account feedback provided during the ROI stage, that will be assessed to identify the applications that will be prioritised for funding under Round 4 (refer to Section 6 below). Feedback will not be provided during the formal application stage.

5. Funding

\$28 million in total funding has been announced for Boating Now Round 4. Projects will need to be delivered and final grant claims received by December 2024 or the grant agreement may be terminated. Any unspent funding will need to be returned in accordance with the Conditions of Grant document.

5.1 TfNSW contribution amount

TfNSW will contribute up to 75 per cent towards the total cost of all approved projects from the formal application stage under Round 4, with the delivery partner required to contribute the remaining 25 per cent.

TfNSW has the discretion, in limited circumstances to allocate funding above 75 per cent towards the total cost of an approved project if other assessment criteria are met to a high standard and if applicants are able to demonstrate why they are not able to meet the minimum funding contribution.

Applications that are able to contribute more than the minimum 25 per cent towards a project will score higher on the cost and affordability criteria.

Funding contributions from the applicant may include funds from other government agencies not including TfNSW, donations, and in-kind contributions such as materials, labour and use of machinery. Internal administration and project management costs such as staff salaries are not considered labour and will not be considered as part of the applicant's funding contribution.

Grant payments do not include GST. Applicants should seek independent tax advice to determine the funding amount to apply for in your grant application.

5.2 Up-front access to funds

To assist early start of projects and encourage timely project completion, applicants will be able to submit a grant claim for up to 25 per cent of the grant value as soon as the Conditions of Grant document is executed. Should the project not proceed, applicants are required to return the 25 per cent upfront allocation in accordance with the Conditions and Grant document.





6. How the applications will be assessed

TfNSW will only consider formal applications that meet the following mandatory conditions:

- The project represents a type of project eligible for consideration under the Boating Now Program (as described at section 3 of the guidelines)
- The project should be available for use by the general boating public and located in an area with an appropriate level of public access to the infrastructure
- The project must be located on land that the applicant owns or has tenure over. Alternatively the applicant must provide clear evidence of landowner's support, approval or consent to carry out the proposed work at the site.

- Project construction must not have commenced at the time of submitting the formal application form. The term 'construction' does not include preliminary investigation and design work, cost estimations or community consultation

Applications that fail to meet any of the above conditions will not be considered further.

Eligible applications that meet the above mandatory conditions will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

- Direct benefits to current and potential waterway users
- How the proposal supports the strategic outcomes of the Maritime Infrastructure Plan
- Delivery confidence
- Cost and affordability (including value for money)

Applications will be prioritised for funding based on those that score highest and which demonstrate the greatest benefit to boaters.

More information on the final application process, including the application form and details on the assessment criteria, will be made available to ROI respondents before the call for formal applications in **March 2022**.

7. Other Boating Now Round 4 sub-programs

Round 4 funding is also allocated to the following sub-programs which can be applied for through separate application processes to that referred to at Section 4. Details on how to apply for these subprograms are available on the [Boating Now website](#).

7.1 Boating asset maintenance funding

Boating Now funding is generally not available for minor and routine maintenance and repairs of boating infrastructure. However, under Boating Now Round 4, one-off funding will be available for such maintenance and repair works to help return boating assets to their optimal condition. For example, funding will be available for:

- removing excessive marine growth on boat ramp surfaces
- replacing missing or deteriorating deck planks on jetties
- fixing loose and broken fittings such as cleats, or pot holes near boat ramps and at nearby car and boat trailer parking areas or access roads.

In March 2022, the boating asset maintenance sub-program will be formally open to applications and councils and other delivery partners will be able to apply for funding to maintain boat ramps, pontoons, wharves, jetties boat ramp car and trailer parking and access roads.

While the boating asset maintenance sub-program will be funded under Boating Now Round 4, it will be subject to a separate application process. Details on this maintenance sub-program, including the application process, available funding and the criteria that must be met to be eligible, will be available when the boating asset maintenance program opens and applicants can start applying for funding in **March 2022**.

The boating assets maintenance sub-program will focus on addressing general wear and tear of boating assets which have occurred over a long period of time, rather than repairs that are required as a result of specific events such as storms or other severe

weather events which are funded under the Boating Infrastructure Emergency Repair Pool (BIERP) Scheme (See section 7.3 below).

7.2 Destination boat ramps

Boating Now Round 4 will continue to invest in developing a network of Destination Boat Ramps in key locations along the coast. These ramps will provide premium facilities to multiple users in line with the NSW Boat Ramp Facility Guidelines.

The eligibility criteria of a Destination Boat Ramp include:

- a minimum two lane concrete boat ramp
- 50 car-trailer parking spaces per boat ramp lane
- at least one pontoon or jetty with capacity for at least two berthed vessels per boat ramp lane.

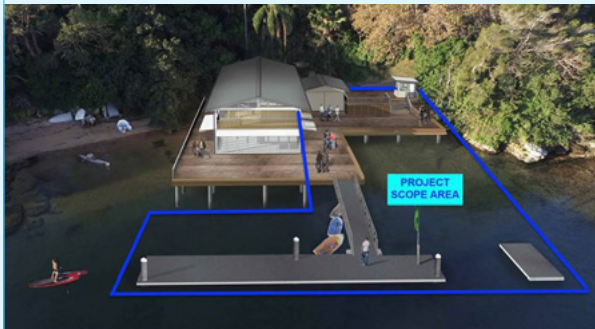
More information on Destination Boat Ramps, which can be applied for through a separate process to the two stage Round 4 grants process, including eligibility criteria and locations, are available on the [Boating Now](#) webpage. Applications to participate in the scheme will be considered at any time to December 2024.

Some facilities may already meet the Destination Boat Ramp eligibility criteria. For other facilities which have the potential to be considered Destination Boat Ramps, councils are encouraged to apply for a grant under Boating Now Round 4 to deliver the works required to meet the eligibility criteria.

7.3 Emergency Repairs

Funding will continue to be provided to assist with emergency repairs of local boating infrastructure similar to the previous Boating Infrastructure Emergency Repair Pool Scheme (BIERP). Funding requests for emergency repairs can be received at any time. Details on how to apply for emergency repair funding are available on the [Boating Now](#) webpage.

Case Studies



Case study 1: Manly Boat Shed

Manly Boatshed is upgrading its facilities with construction due to begin in January 2022. Part of the overall project scope is to improve access to Sydney Harbour for the general boating public including powered and non-powered boaters. Under Round 3 of Boating Now, \$431,000 was allocated to the \$863,000 upgrade dedicated to improving Sydney Harbour water access.

The upgraded facility, which is due to be completed in December 2022, includes a new floating pontoon with a lower level step-down for paddle craft users and a larger vessel berthing area for larger vessels, dry storage area for non-powered craft, a power boat hire facility, outdoor shower and water station for boaters and the general public.

The project supports a number of strategic outcomes in the Maritime Infrastructure Plan by improving safe access to the water in a part of Sydney Harbour with limited other waterways access opportunities. Upgrading the current facilities and improving amenities will also improve recreational and tourism experiences in the northern part of Sydney Harbour and Manly precinct.



Case study 2: Port Stephens Aquatic Structure Strategy

Under Boating Now Round 3, \$70,000 was allocated to the Port Stephens Aquatic Structure Strategy which will assess all aquatic structures in Port Stephens LGA, undertake demand analysis for this infrastructure from community engagement, develop a prioritised work plan with cost estimates to inform future investment decisions and ensure alignment with the MIP.

The Strategy will provide a long term benefit for local and visiting boaters by identifying which infrastructure should be prioritised for future investment.

Case study 3: Lake Mulwala sewage pump-out facility

Under Boating Now Round 3, \$90,000 was allocated to the \$140,000 vessel sewage pump out facility which includes a bunded area with drainage and fresh water wash down, a Camlock hose system with flow meter and swipe card log in to monitor and secure the facility and installation of a gravity and/or rising main pipe to the existing sewer well. The project also includes boat mooring and fender points.

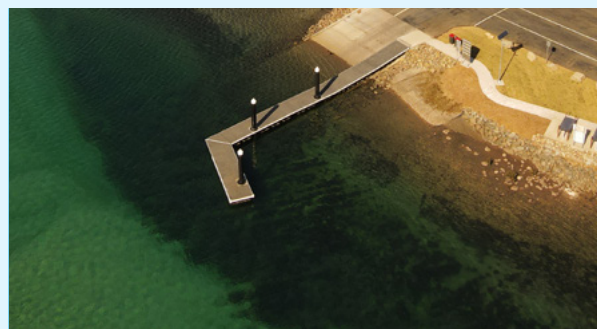
There are a number of commercial boating operators in Lake Mulwala offering tourism experiences which currently rely on a combination of pump-out trucks and use of Council's sewer (via a manhole on the Mulwala foreshore) and is costly, environmentally risky and inefficient.

Case study 4: Kayak launch decks at Weir Reserve and Tench Reserve, Nepean River

Under Boating Now Round 3, \$145,000 was allocated to the \$290,000 new kayak launch deck, which separates non-powered and powered boaters that use the boat ramp at Tench reserve, plus paths and parking upgrades. The project removes pressure from higher use areas such as the Tench Reserve boat ramp and reduce user conflict with power craft.

Under Round 3, \$105,000 was also allocated to the \$210,000 Weir reserve kayak launch decks. This includes two kayak access points -upstream and downstream of the weir along with a path to link the two access points and enable kayakers to safely walk between the two along the weir footpath.

These two kayak access points, which are due for completion in June 2022, will enhance recreational kayaking and tourism opportunities in the area. This aligns with Council's "Our River" masterplan.



Case study 5: Bermagui Harbour Boat Ramp Facility Upgrade

Under Boating Now Round 2, \$645,000 was allocated to the Bega Valley Shire Council to upgrade to Bermagui Harbour boat ramp to reconstruct the existing three lane boat ramp, extend the pontoon and upgrade the car park.

This will increase the capacity and usability of the ramp to meet high demand at this popular facility which is use by a broad range of local and visiting boaters.

Timetable

	Timeline	Round 4 application stage	Action required by applicants
Stage 1: Registration of interest	December 2021– 28 February 2022	Boating Now Round 4 Call for Registrations of Interest (ROI)	<p>Visit Boating Now website</p> <p>Review Round 4 Guidelines and FAQs</p> <p>Download ROI forms</p> <p>Book in to one of the three teleconferences to learn more</p> <p>Contact MIDO: mido@transport.nsw.gov.au as required</p> <p>Submit ROI applications through the on-line portal by 28 February 2022</p>
	February – 11 March 2022	MIDO to review ROI forms and provide feedback/ advice on proposals	Receive advice from MIDO on proposals and prepare for formal application process
Stage 2: Formal application stage	March – April 2022	Call for formal applications	<p>Download application form</p> <p>Prepare applications taking into account MIDO feedback during ROI stage</p> <p>Submit formal applications through the on-line portal</p>
	May 2022	Evaluation panel assesses formal applications	No action required by applicants while formal applications are being assessed
	Mid –2022	Decision, applicants notified and successful projects announced	Sign Conditions of Grant document with Transport for NSW

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