



Acknowledgement of Country

Transport for NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal people and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

Many of the transport routes we use today – from rail lines, to roads, to water crossings – follow the traditional Songlines, trade routes and ceremonial paths in Country that our nation's First Peoples followed for tens of thousands of years.

Transport for NSW is committed to honouring Aboriginal peoples' cultural and spiritual connections to the lands, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

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Versions

Version	Amendment notes
1	First version of guideline 15 November 2024

TfNSW Maritime Division of Waterway

This guideline clarifies the “Division of Waterway” (DoW) as determined on waterways vested in Transport for NSW with respect to planning and leasing matters.

The DoW is a line which has been determined by Transport for NSW and is plotted on plans and in the Maritime Geographic Information System (GIS) to equitably apportion the areas of waterway relative to the frontages of foreshore land parcels.

The DoW is entirely administrative in nature and is not intended to confer any rights upon any adjoining landowners.

In a planning context, Transport for NSW considers a DoW when assessing the navigation safety impact of a proposed development. The DoW assists in determining whether a proposed development will unacceptably affect marine access to neighbouring facilities or properties.

In a leasing context, the DoW may be used to assess the potential boundaries of a subdivision surrounding a leased structure, for the purposes of registering a long-term lease.

In either case, the DoW is purely administrative and does not of itself confer any rights upon adjoining landowners.

Unless otherwise determined by Transport for NSW, the DoW is usually considered to extend either from the foreshore boundary to a distance of 30 metres from the shore, or from the foreshore boundary to a distance beyond the end of the existing or proposed structure sufficient to allow safe navigation for permissible vessels attempting to access that facility.

So, for example, if a jetty is 20m long and an additional 20m of open water is required to allow vessels to safely navigate to a berth alongside it, the DoW might extend for 40m in that instance.

Transport for NSW determines a DoW for any particular area as required. Not all areas have a determined DoW. Consent authorities intending to consider a DoW as part of a development assessment should contact Transport for NSW to obtain information about the status of any existing DoWs or to request that one be determined for a specific location.

Transport for NSW may also redraw DoWs at any time and routinely does so where an approved or existing structure has crossed a previous DoW, or otherwise as required in the interests of navigational safety.

For further information please contact the Maritime Survey Manager by emailing:

maritime.survey@transport.nsw.gov.au

Other guidelines related to Maritime Survey and Spatial Information are available at:

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/roads-and-waterways/waterways/assets-and-environment/maritime-survey-and-spatial>

Important Note: This document does not constitute legal advice and provides guidance only. Users are advised to seek professional advice and refer to the relevant legislation as necessary, before taking action in relation to any matters covered by this document.

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