

# Submission in respect of the Navigation Safety Bylaw – review of clause 2.17 and schedule 7.1.5 under Local Government Act 2202

Submitter: Full name

Address:

Phone: Work

Home

I wish / do not wish to be heard in respect of my submission

Signature:

Occupation:

Date:

## This submission relates to Clause 2.17 Visibility of kayaks and paddle craft.

I believe that visibility of kayaks and paddle craft should be improved through public education, through a voluntary code of good practice developed by kayaking organizations, and through recommendations by maritime safety authorities. I do not support regulation via a bylaw. However given that a bylaw has been enacted by the Auckland Regional Council, then I request the following changes:

- 1) Large waka, waka ama, and dragon boats should be exempt because their size makes them highly visible.
- 2) The requirement that kayaks and paddle craft shall ensure they are highly visible to other vessels will sometimes be impossible to meet, for example in sunstrike conditions when a small vessel low to the water will be difficult to see no matter what clothing or equipment is carried. It should be replaced with, “....shall take steps to enhance their visibility to other vessels,” which is always achievable.
- 3) The requirement that by day kayakers shall wear “highly visible clothing or a highly visible PFD suitable for contrasting with the visibility conditions at the time,” should be replaced with a range of alternatives which incorporate the actions that many paddlers are already taking to improve their visibility. This part of the bylaw could read:  
“By Day. Taking at least one of the following actions:  
a) paddling a brightly-coloured kayak or paddle craft  
b) wearing a brightly-coloured PFD or paddle jacket  
c) exhibiting a brightly-coloured flag on a small mast”
- 4) Replace the phrase “highly visible” with “brightly coloured” to recognise the fact that fabrics in “high-visibility” colours (fluorescent pink, orange, yellow etc) fade very rapidly. For that reason they are seldom used in outdoor clothing which is expected to have a long life in the sun. Bright standard colours such as red, orange and yellow are durable and readily available.
- 5) High-visibility vests (like those worn by cyclists and road-workers) should not be mandatory because they obstruct access to the VHF radio and cell-phone which many paddlers wear clipped to the front of their PFD, and to a tow-rope which is sometimes carried in a pocket on the back of the PFD. If a vest is loose enough to get on and off easily then in the water it may float up over the kayaker’s face.
- 6) I agree that at night kayakers should carry a strong torch which can be used to warn approaching vessels at long range. The additional all-round white light required by the proposed bylaw will be used to indicate the kayak’s position at much closer range while the kayaker continues paddling. I urge the council not to specify a 2-nautical-mile range for the all-round white light because such a light is bright enough to destroy the night vision of one’s fellow-paddlers; the batteries required make it heavy and prohibitively expensive; and oncoming vessels can be warned much more effectively, and at far greater range, with a torch.

Additional comments which I wish to make are: .....

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This submission **must be received** by the ARC before 4.30pm on Monday 16 March. It may be posted to the Harbourmaster’s Office, Auckland Regional Council, Private Bag 92 012, Auckland; or delivered to the Auckland Regional Council, 21 Pitt St, Newton.