New sector lights on Maclaey River

Fact sheet

December 2018

Roads and Maritime Services has installed sector lights at the Macleay River Bar. These sector lights replace the lead lights that were decommissioned in 2015 and the lead lights on Rainbow Reach that are currently not achieving the required height and distance between the front and rear leads.

The navigation channel along the Macleay River bar is prone to shallowing that is caused by shoaling sand. Despite the lead lights being decommissioned, vessel operators continue to use this entrance without the use of a defined lead.

There have been nearly 30 serious incidents, including one fatality in the past 15 years at the Macleay River bar location. Following research and investigations into the best option for directing boaters safely, Roads and Maritime are using this best practice equipment to create a preferred channel that will make navigation as safe as possible.

**How do sector lights work?**

A sector light is a fixed aid to navigation that displays a light of different colours and/or rhythms over designated arcs. The colour of the light provides directional information to aid navigation of vessels.

- White - this sector is in the middle of the safe channel
- Red - indicates the port edge of the channel for vessels approaching the light source
- Green - indicates the starboard edge of the channel for vessels approaching the light source.

Vessel operators entering on either side of the channel will see the red or green light shine accordingly to direct them safely towards a centreline channel indicated by a white light. The light remains visible at day and night.

**Where have they been installed?**

**Macleay River Bar**

A Sector Light will replace the river entrance Lead Lights that were decommissioned in 2015. The approach bearing will be changed to suit the safest passage indicated by recent and historical survey data. This Sector light will be visible up to two nautical miles seaward of the Macleay River entrance at all hours of day and night.

**Rainbow Reach**

A Sector Light will upgrade the Rainbow Reach design as the current lead is unable to achieve the required height and distance between the front and rear leads. The position of the lead and approach bearing will not change.

The maps overleaf indicate the locations for both the sector lights for the Macleay River bar and in the Rainbow Reach area.
When were they installed?
Roads and Maritime is testing the positioning of the sector lights and aim to have them fully commissioned by the end of 2018 before the peaking holiday boating season.

More information
If you would like more information on sector lights as well as other navigational marks and signs visit our website at https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/safety-rules/rules-regulations/navigation-marks-and-signs.html.

Alternatively, call Maritime Division on 13 12 36, or email us at csemaritime@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Seen something?
Roads and Maritime Services Boating Safety Officers are responsible for managing compliance in accordance with the relevant regulations and new management actions on the Macleay River.

Non-compliance with the regulations can also be reported by calling 13 12 36 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 4.30pm Saturday and Sunday.