

### **Moorings are now Permitted Activities**

At the time the Regional Coastal Environment Plan became operative there was concern that the plan required all mooring holders to apply for consents, even for those moorings which had longstanding authorisations such as Harbour Board licences. The Council listened to and accepted that concern and over two years ago began a change to the Coastal Plan, to allow all existing moorings which were authorised by either licences or consents to continue on but under a form of authorisation known as a "permitted activity." Permitted activities still need to meet certain standards, but do not expire, and generally are not monitored in the way that consents are.

The good news is that while this change process has taken an extraordinary length of time due to appeals, it has recently been signed off by the Environment Court, and is in effect now.

**This means that all lawfully established moorings within mooring areas, and existing moorings outside mooring areas, become permitted activities.**

### **Annual charge for all moorings**

The not so good news is that there is to be an annual charge levied on all swing moorings

This charge was incorporated in the Navigation Safety Bylaws during the review which was carried out in 2007. This review underwent full public consultation, and there were no submissions against the charge.

The charge is set at \$100 plus GST annually.

This is to recover the costs of supervision and maintenance of the moorings' database, and reflects the view that costs of management of moorings should be paid for by the user, rather than the general ratepayer as it is at present.

It will cover the harbourmaster's time, and the cost of maintaining the mooring records and database, but also will be used to support a new part time Moorings Officer position.

The annual charge for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 will be invoiced shortly.

### ***Safe Boating AND Safe Mooring!***

If you have any queries please feel free to contact us.

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