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Dear Mr Baldwin and Mr Patchett

Thank you for your email dated 5 January 2025, about the lifejacket – or personal flotation device – laws which came into effect from 1 January 2025.

As you are aware, from 1 January 2025, lifejackets must meet Australian Standard (AS) 4758, which have greater buoyancy, visibility and increased comfort to ultimately increase a boater's chances of survival. Lifejackets that meet AS 4758 were first implemented in South Australia in 2010.

This change follows amendments made on 10 February 2022 to the Harbors and Navigation Regulations 2009 which meant that lifejackets that meet older standards (including AS 1512, AS 1499 and AS 2260) cannot be used in South Australia from 1 January 2025.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) advises it is aware of the supply issue and as a result, its Marine Safety Officers are adopting a measured approach to compliance and issuing warnings (as opposed to expiations) to otherwise compliant boaters until the supply issue has been resolved.

For your information, compliance data recorded by the Department within the past 12 months indicate that 95 percent of vessel operators inspected already comply with the lifejacket standard AS 4758.

A public awareness campaign has been running since February 2022 to promote the carriage and wear of lifejackets meeting AS 4758. Communications have included public interactions, social media, newsletters and the Department's Marine Safety SA website.

Yours sincerely



Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport