Port Manager Directions No. 1.0/2018 for the Local Port of Port Phillip - Portarlington Harbour

Duration: ongoing

1. Introduction

1.1. Parks Victoria is the appointed port manager for the local ports of Port Phillip, Western Port and Port of Port Campbell under the Port Management Act 1995 and is also appointed as the waterway manager under the Marine Safety Act 2010 for these waters.

1.2. The Marine Safety Act 2010 purpose is to provide for safe marine operations in Victoria. Amongst other things, the Marine Safety Act 2010 highlights marine safety as a shared responsibility with everyone having an obligation and duty to act safely.

1.3. Parks Victoria in its capacity as port manager for the local port of Port Phillip make the following directions pursuant to s.44G(2) of the Port Management Act 1995 in regard operation of vessels in Portarlington Safe Harbour.

1.4. Pursuant to s.237 of the Marine Safety Act 2010 it is an offence for the Master of a vessel to refuse or fail to comply with a direction without reasonable excuse. In complying with these directions all vessels, or the owner, Master, crew or pilot thereof, must have due regard to all dangers of navigation and collision and to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the vessels involved.

1.5. Any deviation from these directions must be reported in writing to the port manager.

2. Definitions

2.1. local port of Port Phillip means all waters of Port Phillip Bay, including Corio Bay and Swan Bay, to high water mark as published in the Victorian Government Gazette 26 June 1997, excludes the commercial port waters of the Port of Melbourne and the Port of Geelong.

2.2. Ferry means the vessel(s) owned or operated by The Trust for the LG Ferries Trust – trading as Port Phillip Ferries, these include but are not limited to Bellarine Express, and displaying an amber flashing light on the forward mast.

2.3. Portarlington Harbour means the area (18.093 ha) within the boundary of the Committee of Management as shown on the plan in Attachment 1.

3. Notes

3.1. Mariners are advised that the depth and width of the fairway within the harbour cannot be guaranteed and is constantly changing. No warranty whatsoever can be given for the depth and/or width of the dredged fairway. Parks Victoria conducts Bathymetric surveys on a regular basis. The most recent survey information can be downloaded from the Parks Victoria website, https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/bays-rivers-and-ports/portarlington-harbour
4. Traffic rules

4.1. The Ferry has right of way over all other vessels while navigating the entrance to the harbour.

4.2. The master of a vessel is directed to keep clear of the Ferry while operating within Portarlington Harbour.

4.3. The master of a vessel must operate consistent with the Vessel Operating Zone Rules that specifically apply to Portarlington Harbour waters.

4.4. The Master of the Ferry must sound one prolonged blast (as per Rule 34(e) of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972) prior to transiting the entrance to Portarlington Harbour.

4.5. The Master of the Ferry may make a call on VHF two-way radio, on channel 16, stating they are about to enter the harbour.

4.6. The Master of the inward bound Ferry must slow to 5 knots, when 50 metres off the harbour entrance.

4.7. The Master of the Ferry must not exceed 5 knots while operating within the Portarlington Harbour.

4.8. The Master of the Ferry is exempt from Directions 4.6 and 4.7 in adverse weather conditions (high wind or wave conditions) for the purpose of maintaining steerage.

4.9. The Master of the Ferry while approaching and within the waters of Portarlington Harbour must ensure that the vessel:
   * complies with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
   * complies with Victorian Notices to Mariners affecting local port waters.
   * complies with provisions of the Marine Safety Act 2010, and the regulations that apply to the vessel or Master.
   * if fitted with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) that it is in operation at all times and the input data is accurate and updated.

The Board of Parks Victoria has delegated its power pursuant to s.44G(2) of the Port Management Act 1995 to District Manager in an instrument of delegation dated 12 September 2018 under Section 44C of the Port Management Act 1995.

I, Graeme Davis, District Manager, Port Phillip Western Port determine under s.44G(2) of the Port Management Act 1995 that the directions above apply to the vessel operations within Portarlington Harbour.

This direction applies from the date of signing for the duration specified or until amended or revoked.

Signed by:

Graeme Davis
District Manager, Port Phillip Western Port

Date 04/12/2018