



**MINISTER FOR TOURISM; RACING AND GAMING; SMALL BUSINESS;
DEFENCE ISSUES; CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

Our Ref: 70-22636

Mr Colin Lockley
President
Boating Western Australia Inc

secretary@boatingwa.com.au

Dear Mr Lockley

Thank you for your letter dated 26 October 2020 regarding a rebate of mooring and admission fees for the period that boaters were not able to access Rottnest Island and its waters earlier this year. I apologise for the delay in replying, however, I understand you have been in discussions with the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) about this matter.

The McGowan Government is deeply appreciative of the general public's cooperation and support in complying with measures needed to keep the community safe. These measures have enabled us to enjoy a far more normal lifestyle in Western Australia than in other parts of Australia and overseas. Many people have had to make sacrifices of one kind or another during the pandemic, and I wish to acknowledge the boating community's cooperation and understanding over the period the Island was used as a quarantine facility.

It is important to note that the fees collected by the RIA under the Rottnest Island Regulations 1988 contribute to the cost of providing the Island's marine facilities on a year-round basis. Fees are not set at a level that enables the full cost of providing these facilities to be recovered. This requires the RIA to subsidise their provision from other operational areas.

As you know, the McGowan Government has provided a special allocation of \$16.2 million to the RIA to enable key Island marine infrastructure to be replaced or upgraded, including \$4 million to replace the Fuel Jetty which exists almost solely to enhance the amenity of the boating community.

I understand that many of your membership feel that a refund of their admission fee and annual mooring licence fee is warranted for the time the Island was off-limits. I am advised that the RIA has agreed to this, but in doing so asks that your members consider what is in the long-term interests of Rottnest Island's marine facilities before claiming their refund.

Yours sincerely

**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

03 DEC 2020