

10 September 2018

Our ref: DOC/18/346989  
Your ref: COR 2017 004024

Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Sir / Madam

**INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF JUNICHI YOSHIMURA  
FINDING WITHOUT INQUEST – TSV RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION  
CASE NUMBER – COR 2017 004024**

On behalf of Transport Safety Victoria's (TSV's) Maritime Safety branch, I write in response to your letter of 7 May 2018 and the Coroner's findings without inquest following the investigation into the death of Junichi Yoshimura, and the recommendation below.

1. That Transport Safety Victoria liaise with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources with a view to seek amendment of the *Marine Safety Regulations 2012* (Vic), to require the compulsory carrying of an EPIRB or a Personal Locator Beacon (preferably with GPS capability) for all human powered vessel activities, regardless of the classification of waterway or distance offshore.

Response:

TSV supports the recommendation in part.

However, we would like to clarify that any change to the *Marine Safety Regulations 2012* (Vic) (MSR) which would require operators to carry an EPIRB or Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) should only apply to persons operating vessels in high risk situations (for example when operating alone and not to persons engaged in low risk activities being conducted in site of the shore (for example stand up paddle-boarding or dragon boat racing)).

TSV's data indicates that of the 19 human powered vessel fatalities which have occurred since 1 July 2006, 13 are confirmed to have not raised the alarm or had someone raise the alarm on their behalf. Anecdotal evidence obtained by TSV suggests that this issue is not confined to human powered vessels and, in fact, applies to all vessel operators.

TSV's safety education campaign for the 2017-18 boating season included a campaign about the importance of boaters carrying a means of raising the alarm, in particular an EPIRB or PLB. However, an evaluation of the effectiveness of this campaign indicated that it did not reach its intended audience and therefore there was no change to boater behaviour.

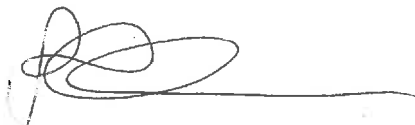
TSV will use these findings to inform a more targeted behaviour change campaign for the 2018-19 boating season. This will be evaluated after the end of the boating season.

If there is no change in boater behaviour following this campaign, TSV intends to liaise with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources about the possibility of changing the MSR to make the carriage of EPIRBs or PLBs compulsory for the operators of all vessels in high risk situations, including when operating alone.

In addition, TSV will consider other ways of improving paddler safety including educating paddlers about the importance of using "leg leashes" (which assist paddlers to remain attached to their vessel if they fall into the water) and "paddle leashes" (which attach the paddle to the vessel for ease of recovery).

If you require any further information, please contact Jane Wright, Policy Adviser, on (03) 9655 1022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**RACHEL GUALANO**  
Director, Maritime Safety