

## Recreational marine license census June 2017

### About this publication

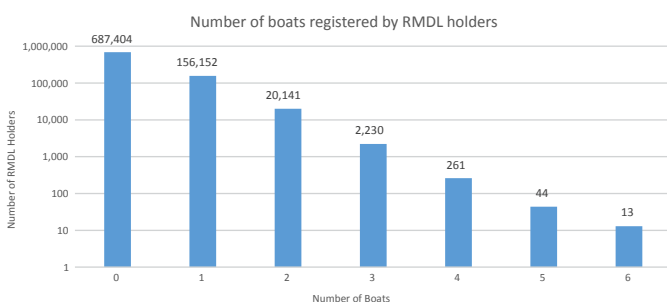
This publication presents the results of a census taken of the number of current Queensland recreational marine licences on 30 June 2017. The data presented in this publication was extracted from the Department of Transport and Main Roads TRAILS Registration System (the register) on 3 July 2017.

In Queensland, being issued a Recreational Marine Driver Licence (RMDL) is a necessary prerequisite to being issued with a Personal Watercraft Licence (PWCL). Both of these marine licences are issued for an unlimited term and so will remain current unless they are surrendered, cancelled, or until the passage of time assures the licence can no longer be in use.

The graphs and tables provide the number of current recreational marine licences classified by type, maritime region, the age and gender of the licensees, the year in which a licence was issued and whether or not a licensee was the registrant of a personal water craft (PWC) or boat (a vessel that is not a PWC). The particulars of the boats and PWC that licensees have registered can be found in the report "Recreational Vessel Census June 2017".

### Key Points

At 30 June 2017 records indicate that 866,705 people held a current marine license; two licenses for every nine people resident in Queensland who were 16 years of age or older.

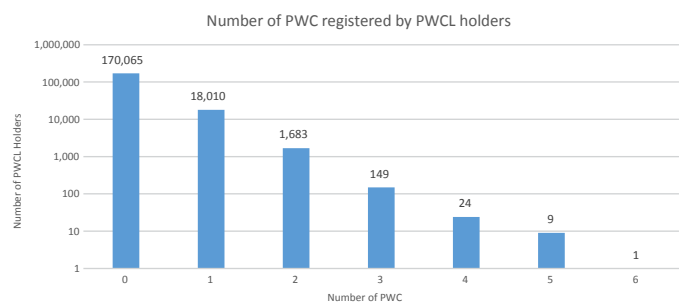


An RMDL was held by 866,247 people of whom 169,607 also held a PWCL. An additional 458 people, with interstate recreational boat licences or a commercial marine qualification, held a standalone PWCL.

Twenty-one per cent (178,843) of the 866,247 holders of an RMDL had registered at least one of 204,482 recreational boats. The majority of these registrants (87%) registered a single boat.

Over the past twelve months the number of RMDL holders increased by 3 per cent while the number of RMDL holders registering boats and the number of boats they had registered both increased by 0.23 and 0.28 per cent respectively.

Twelve per cent (19,879) of the 170,065 holders of a PWCL had registered at least one of 21,999 PWC. The majority of these registrants (90%) registered a single PWC.



Over the past twelve months the number of PWCL holders increased by 9 per cent while the number of PWCL holders who registered a PWC and the number of PWC they registered increased both increased by 6 per cent.

Only half of one per cent of licensees (4599) had registered both a boat (5831 boats) and a PWC (5332 PWC). The majority of these licensees (3176) had registered a single boat and a single PWC.

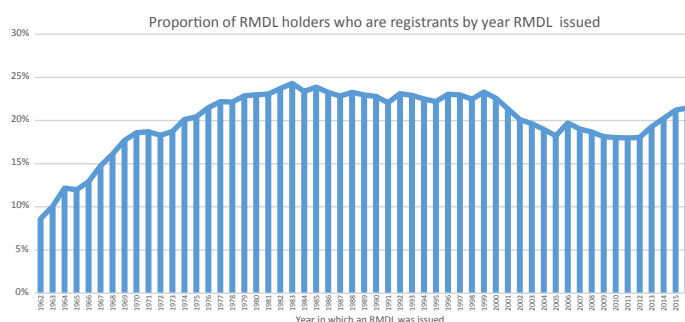
Eighty-two per cent of current RMDLs were issued between 1962 when licenses were first issued and 2010. A further 18 per cent of RMDLs were issued between 2011 and 2016.

The proportion of these licensees who were registrants of at least one boat increased from 8.6 per cent of those issued an RMDL in 1962 to a maximum of 24 per cent among those issued an RMDL in 1983 before falling to 18 per cent of those issued an RMDL in 2012. At this point the proportion of licensees who were registrants rose to 21 per cent in 2016; coincident with the year in which the RMDL was issued.

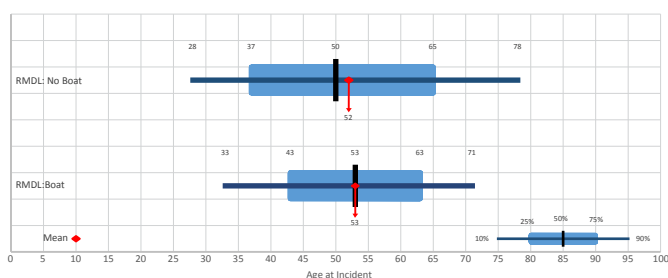
The majority (63.8%) of RMDL holders were resident in the Brisbane Maritime Region followed by the Gladstone Maritime Region which accommodated a further 14.5 per cent of RMDL holders. The Mackay, Townsville and Cairns regions accommodated 5.4, 7.4 and 7.8 per cent of RMDL holders respectively.

RMDL holders in the Mackay Maritime Region were the most likely (29%) to be the registrant of a boat and, at 1.2 boats per registrant, registered the highest average number of boats per registrant. RMDL holders in the Brisbane Maritime Region were the least likely (18%) to be the registrant of a boat and registered the lowest average number of boats at 1.1 boats per registrant.

Sixteen per cent (145,626) of RMDLs had been issued to women, 5.5 per cent (8063) of whom had registered at least one of 8750 boats which accounts for 4.3 per cent of all the boats registered by licensees.

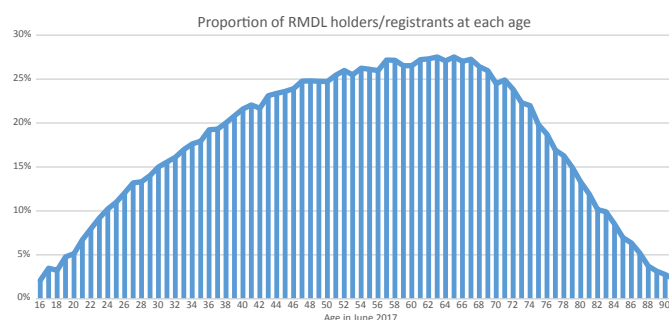


Age of RMDL holder by Registrant status



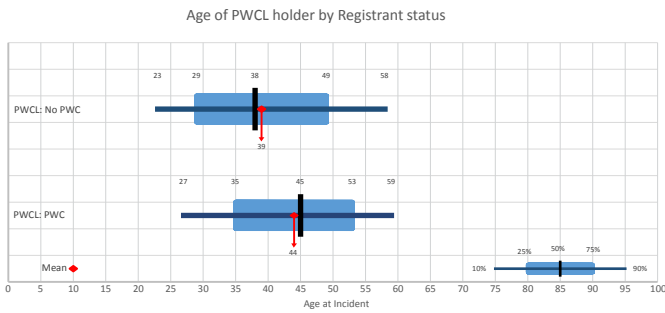
The mean and median age of the holders of an RMDL who had registered a boat was 53 years. Ten per cent of these RMDL holders were more than 71 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 33 years of age and 50 per cent were between 43 and 63 years of age. The the mean and median ages of RMDL holders who had not registered a boat were both 52 and 50 years respectively. The distribution of these RMDL holders' ages was somewhat more dispersed. Ten per cent were more than 78 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 28 years of age while 50 per cent were between 37 and 65 years of age.

It is of interest to note that the probability that the holder of an RMDL would be the registrant of a boat increased at a decreasing rate as the licensee became older. Only 2 per cent of 16 year old RMDL holders were the registrants of a boat. This proportion increased to 21 per cent at 40 years of age reaching a maximum of 28 per cent at 65 years of age. At this point boat registrations declined until only 2 per cent of 91 year old RMDL holders were the registrant of a boat.



The proportion of licensees who had been issued with both an RMDL and a PWCL decreased with the licensee's age and increased as the year in which the RMDL was issued became more recent.

For example 12 per cent of "Baby Boomers" (born 1947-1966) had both marine licenses while 26 per cent of the "X/Y Generation" (born 1967-1986) had both marine licenses as did 45 percent of the "I Generation" (born 1987-2006). Likewise 39 per cent of licensees issued an RMDL between 2011 and 2015 also had a PWCL. This figure fell to 23 per cent between the years 2001 and 2010, 8 per cent between the years 1981 and 2000 and 3 per cent of those issued an RMDL between 1962 and 1980. It is of interest to note that women (27%) were far more likely than men (18%) to have both an RMDL and a PWCL.



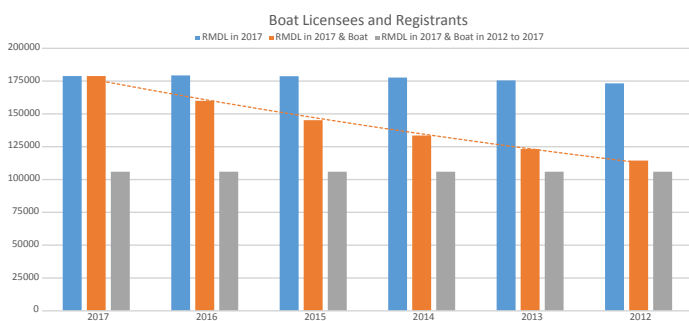
The five year difference in the mean ages of PWCL holders who had and had not registered a PWC is a consequence of the distribution of licensees' ages having two peaks, the first centred around 30 years of age and the second around 45 year of age. While 50 per cent of PWCL holders were 39 years old or younger, those licensees who were 40 years old or older were twice as likely (16% vs. 8%) to be the registrant of a least one PWC.

Twenty-three per cent (39,484) of PWCLs have been issued to women, 5.4% (2,135) of whom had registered at least one of 2352 PWC which accounts for 10.8% of all the PWC registered by licensees.

Forty-nine per cent of current PWCL were issued between 2005, the first year in which PWCL were issued and 2010. Nine per cent of these licensees were the registrant of a PWC. The remaining 51% of PWCL were issued between 2011 and 2016. Sixteen per cent of these licensees were the registrant of a PWC.

The majority (78%) of PWCL holders were resident in the Brisbane Maritime Region followed by the Gladstone Maritime Region which accommodated a further 9.3% of PWCL holders. The Mackay, Townsville and Cairns regions accommodated 3.2, 4.5 and 4.1 per cent of PWCL holders respectively.

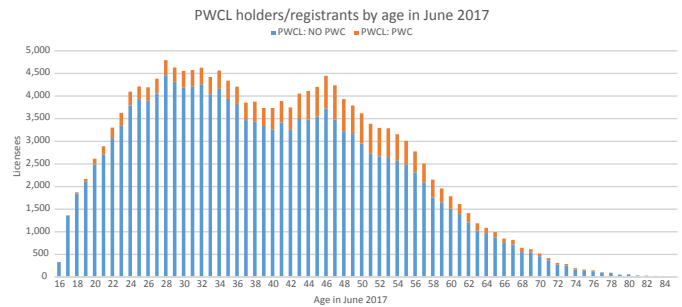
PWCL holders in the Townsville Maritime Region were the least likely (9.8%) to be the registrant of a PWC and, at 1.08 PWC per registrant, registered the lowest average number of PWC per registrant. In the other three Maritime Regions 11.2 to 12.8 per cent of PWCL holders were the registrant of a PWC, registering an average of 1.1 PWC per registrant.



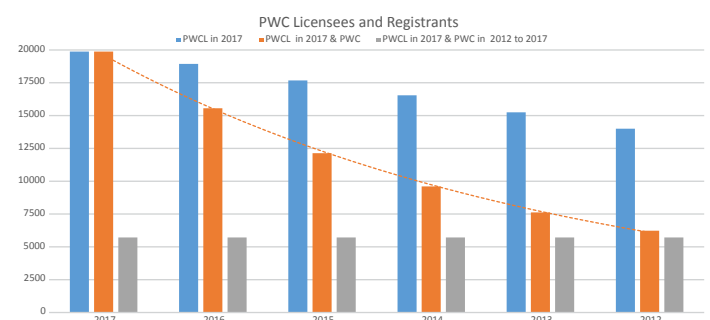
Similarly in June 2012 14,004 of the 170,065 PWCL holders at June 2017 were the registrant of a PWC. This number rose by 42% to 19,879 in June 2017. Of these 19,879 licensees 6,231 were also the registrant of a PWC in June 2012; a fall of 69% over the period. Of these 6,231 licensees, 5,713 were the registrant of a PWC in the June of each of the years 2012 to 2017. These 5,713 licensees account for 3.4% of all PWCL holders in June 2017 and 29% of all PWCL holders who were the registrant of a PWC in June 2017.

The mean age of the holder of a PWCL who had registered a PWC was 44 years, while the median age was 46. Ten per cent of these PWCL holders were more than 59 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 27 years of age and 50 per cent were between 36 and 53 years of age.

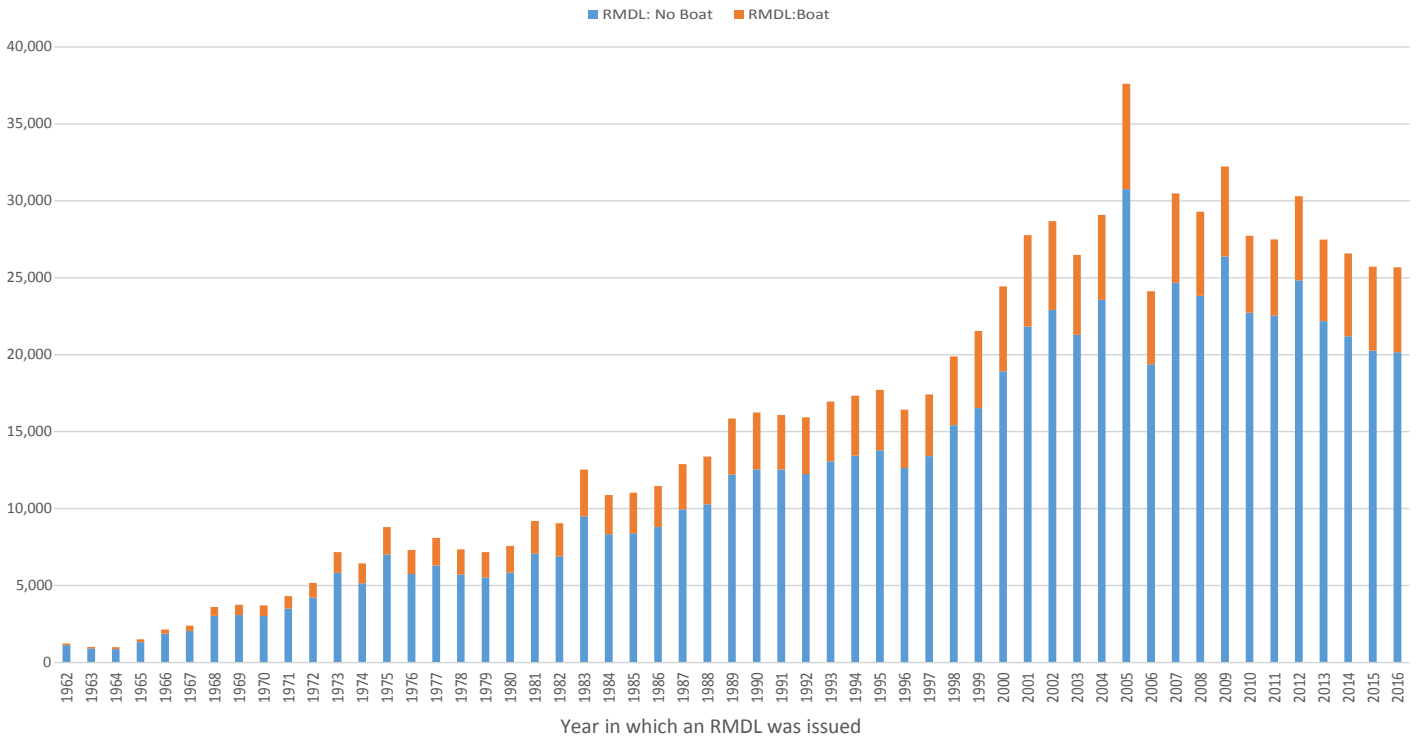
The mean age of the holder of a PWCL who had not registered a PWC was 39 years, while the median age was 38. Ten per cent of these PWCL holders were more than 58 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 23 years of age and 50 per cent were between 29 and 49 years of age.



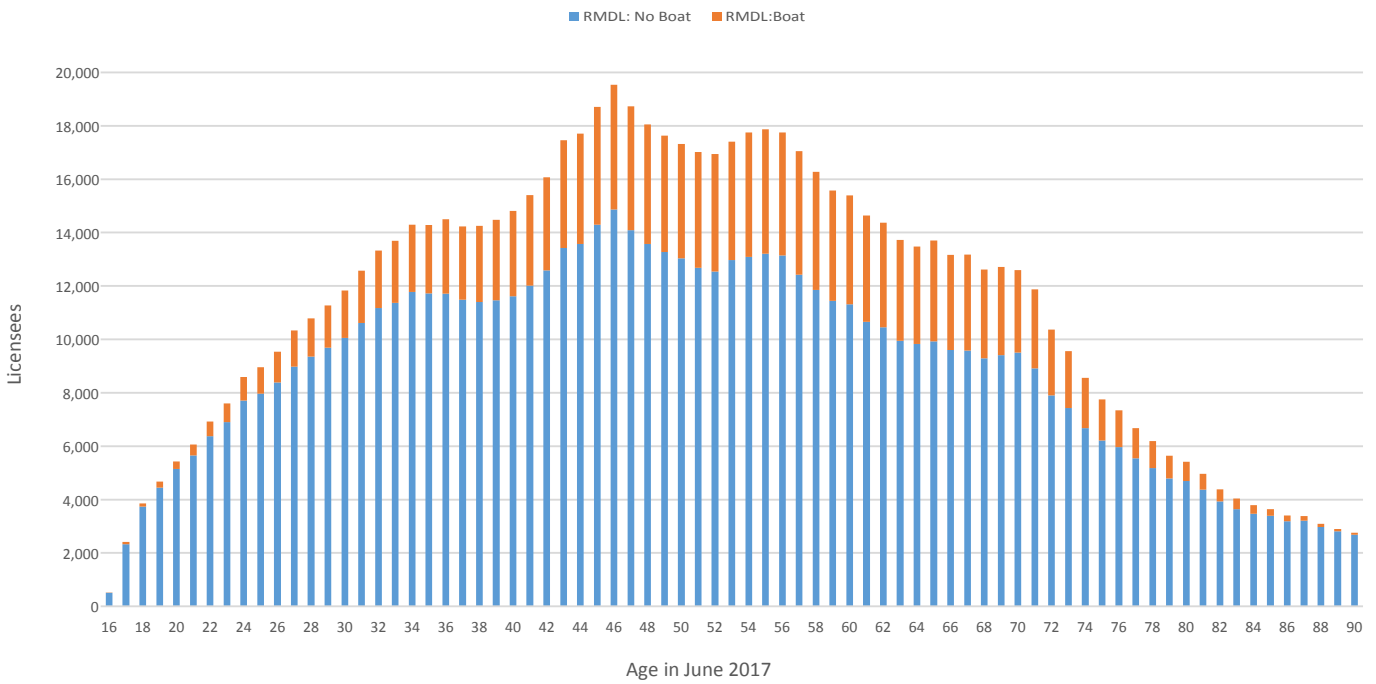
The extent of a licensees' participation in recreational boating can to some extent be quantified by considering the number of recent years during which a licensee has been the registrant of a boat. In June 2012, 173,269 of the 866,247 RMDL holders at June 2017 were the registrant of a boat. This number rose by 3% to 178,843 in June 2017. Of these 178,843 licensees 114,436 were also the registrant of a boat in June 2012; a fall of 36% over the period. Of these 114,436 licensees, 105,987 were the registrant of a boat in the June of each of the years 2012 to 2017. These 105,987 licensees account for 12% of all RMDL holders in June 2017 and 60% of all RMDL holders who were the registrants of a boat in June 2017.



### RMDL holders/registrants in year RMDL issued



### RMDL holders who are registrants by age in June 2017



**Table 1: Licensees, registrants and vessels at June 2017**

	Licensees no.	RMDL no.	Registrant <sup>1</sup> no.	Boats no.	PWCL no.	Registrant <sup>2</sup> no.	PWC no.
<b>Maritime Regions</b>							
Brisbane	552891	552618	98323	109576	132471	16454	18220
Gladstone	125605	125559	34810	40491	15873	1781	1950
Mackay	46901	46853	13556	16258	5512	703	775
Townsville	64328	64316	16460	19545	7604	750	814
Cairns	67214	67150	15471	18383	7026	805	891
Ex QLD	9766	9751	302	319	1579	57	61
<b>Gender of Licensees</b>							
Female	145673	145626	8065	8752	39484	2231	2452
Male	720737	720326	170856	195819	130581	18319	20259
Unspecified	295	295	1	1			
<b>Age of Licensees</b>							
Oldest Generation 1891–1926	20652	20652	204	213	3		
Lucky Generation 1927–1946	115723	115708	18741	21287	1997	275	295
Baby Boom 1947–1966	303349	303178	80364	93805	37063	6422	7246
Generation X & Y 1967–1986	317305	317061	68054	76870	81962	10636	11768
I Generation 1987–2006	108819	108791	11553	12391	49040	3217	3402
Not Recorded	857	857	6	6			
<b>Year RMDL Issued</b>							
1962 to 1980	89796	89796	17649	21620	2542	393	445
1981 to 2000	306278	306278	70305	83473	26791	5079	5793
2001 to 2010	293494	293494	56139	62370	68732	6936	7677
2011 to 2015	137571	137571	26544	28352	54141	5861	6357
2016	25674	25674	5511	5787	12069	1663	1766
2017	11336	11336	2281	2377	5249	560	600
No RMDL Issued	458		79	90	458	39	51
Not Recorded	2098	2098	414	503	83	19	22
<b>Year PWCL Issued</b>							
2005	36849	36713	8422	10332	36849	3410	3963
2006 to 2010	46217	46052	6876	8022	46217	4070	4551
2011 to 2015	65618	65495	9340	10524	65618	8646	9466
2016	14894	14867	1982	2190	14894	2770	2971
2017	6487	6480	809	909	6487	983	1048
No PWCL Issued	696640	696640	151493	172595		671	712
<b>Total</b>	<b>866705</b>	<b>866247</b>	<b>178922</b>	<b>204572</b>	<b>170065</b>	<b>20550</b>	<b>22711</b>

1: Licensees who have registered at least one boat.

2: Licensees who have registered at least one PWC.

## Disclaimer

The data sources used in the compilation of this report are subject to an ongoing process of data validation and consequently the numbers and calculations presented are subject to revision.

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