

## Recreational marine licence census June 2019

### About this publication

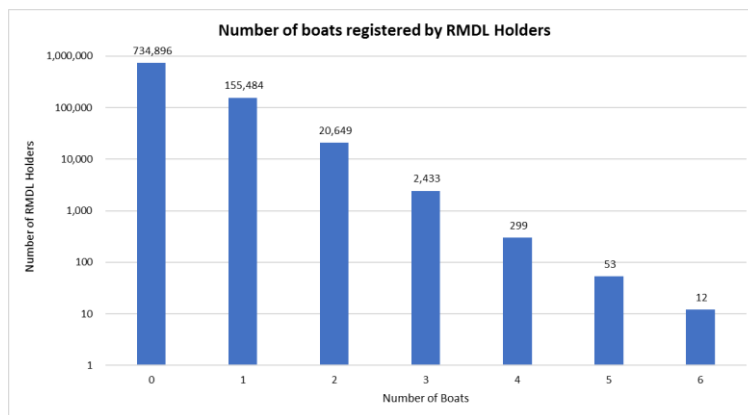
This publication presents the results of a census taken of the number of current Queensland recreational marine licences on 30 June 2019. The data presented in this publication was extracted from the Department of Transport and Main Roads TRAILS Registration System (the register) on 11 July 2019.

In Queensland, being issued a *Recreational Marine Driver Licence* (RMDL) is a prerequisite to being issued with a *Personal Watercraft Licence* (PWCL). Both 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 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 "Queensland Regulated Ship Census, June 2019".

### Key Points



At 30 June 2019 records indicate that 914,264 people held a current marine licence; two licences for every nine people in Queensland who were 16 years of age or older.

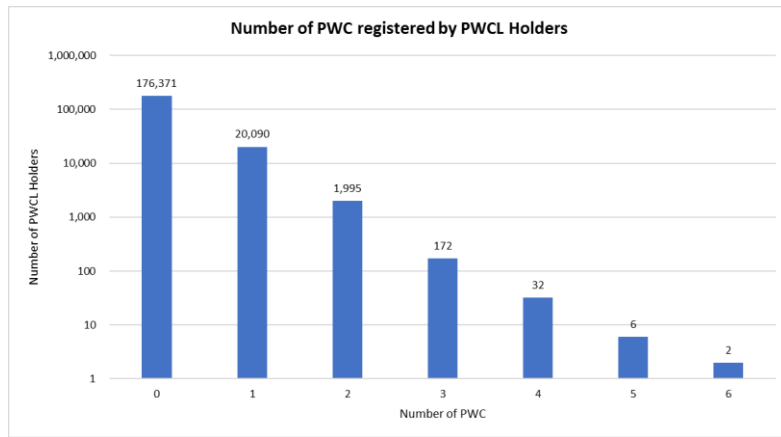
An RMDL was held by 913,834 people of whom 198,240 also held a PWCL. An additional 430 people, with interstate

recreational boat licences or a commercial marine qualification, held a standalone PWCL.

Twenty per cent (178,938) of the 913,834 holders of an RMDL had registered at least one of 205,678 recreational boats. Most of these registrants (87%) registered a single boat.

Over the past twelve months the number of RMDL holders increased by 2.6 per cent while the number of RMDL holders registering boats decreased by 0.04 per cent and the number of boats they had registered increased by 0.18 per cent.

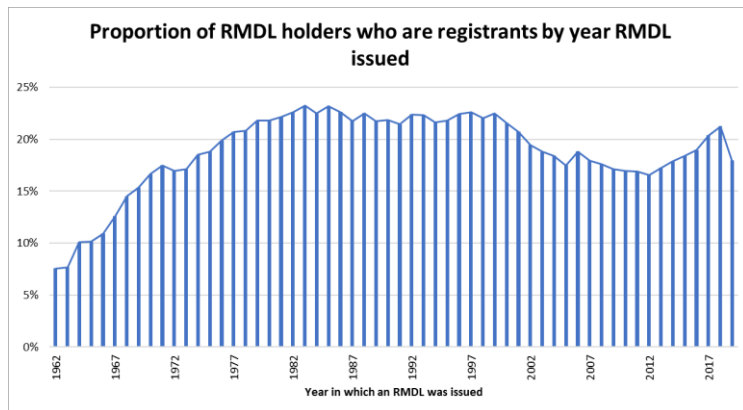
Eleven per cent (22,299) of the 198,670 holders of a PWCL had registered at least one of 24,787 PWC. The majority of these registrants (90%) registered a single PWC.



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

Only half of one per cent of licensees (5737) had registered both a boat (6119 boats) and a PWC (6830 PWC). The majority of these licensees (4560) had registered a single boat and a single PWC.

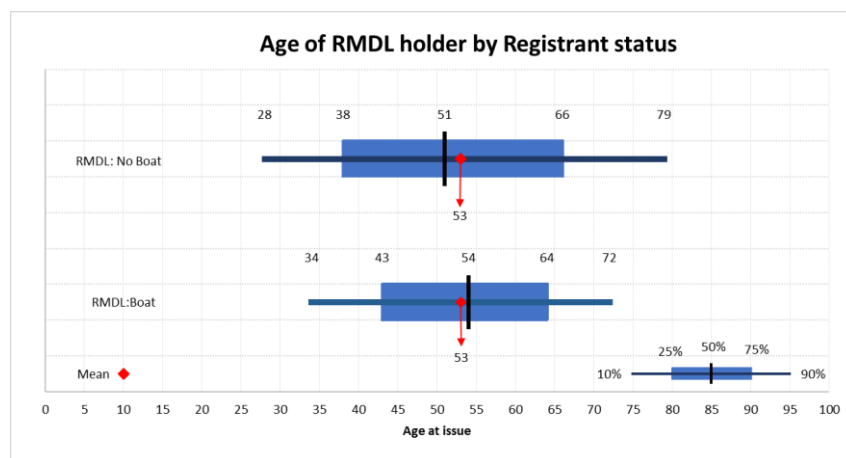
Seventy-six per cent of current RMDLs were issued between 1962, when licences were first issued, and 2010. A further 23 per cent of RMDLs were issued between 2011 and 2017.



The proportion of these licensees who were registrants of at least one boat increased from eight per cent of those issued an RMDL in 1962 to a maximum of 23 per cent among those issued an RMDL in 1985, before falling to 17 per cent of those issued an RMDL in 2012. The proportion of licensees who were registrants rose to 22 per cent in 2018; coincident with the year in which the RMDL was issued.

The majority (64%) of RMDL holders were resident in the Brisbane Maritime Region followed by the Gladstone Maritime Region which accommodated a further 14.4 per cent of RMDL holders. The Mackay, Townsville and Cairns regions accommodated 5.3, 7.3 and 7.7 per cent of RMDL holders respectively.

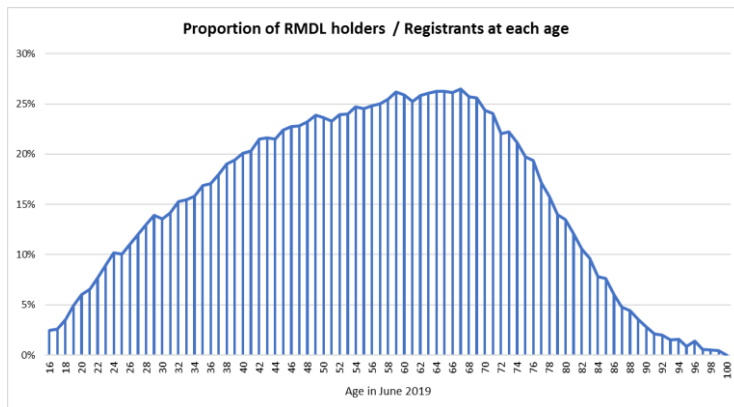
RMDL holders in the Mackay Maritime Region were the most likely (28%) to be the registrant of a boat and, at 1.2 boats per registrant, registered the highest average number of boats per registrant. RMDL holders in the Brisbane Maritime Region were the



least likely (17%) to be the registrant of a boat and registered the lowest average number of boats at 1.1 boats per registrant.

Seventeen per cent (157,343) of RMDLs had been issued to women, 4.7 per cent (8418) of whom had registered at least one of 9164 boats which accounts for 4.4 per cent of all the boats registered by licensees.

The mean and median ages of the holders of an RMDL who had registered a boat was 53 and 54 years respectively. Ten per cent of these RMDL holders were more than 72 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 34 years of age and 50 per cent were between 43 and 64 years of age.



The mean and median ages of RMDL holders who had not registered a boat were both 53 and 51 years respectively. The distribution of these RMDL holders' ages was somewhat more dispersed.

Ten per cent were more than 79 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 28 years of age while 50 per cent were between 38 and 66 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 two per cent of 16-year-old RMDL holders were the registrants of a boat. This proportion increased to 20 per cent at 40 years of age, reaching a maximum of 27 per cent at 66 years of age. At this point boat registrations declined until only two per cent of 91-year-old RMDL holders were the registrant of a boat.

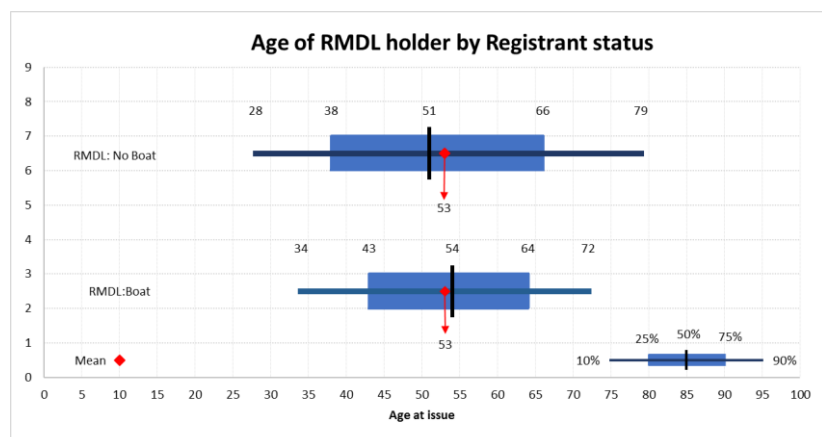
The proportion of licensees who had been issued with both an RMDL and a PWCL decreased with the licensee's age and increased as the year in which the RMDL was issued became more recent.

For example, 13 per cent of "Baby Boomer" (born 1947-1966) had both marine licenses while 27 per cent of the "X/Y Generation" (born 1967-1986) had both marine licenses as did 47 per cent of the "I Generation" (born 1987-2006). Likewise, 51 per cent of those licensees obtaining an RMDL in 2019 were issued with both marine licenses, as were 32 per cent of those issued an RMDL between 2001 and 2018 and 9 per cent of those issued an RMDL between 1981 and 2000.

It is of interest to note that women (29%) were far more likely than men (20%) to have both an RMDL and a PWCL.

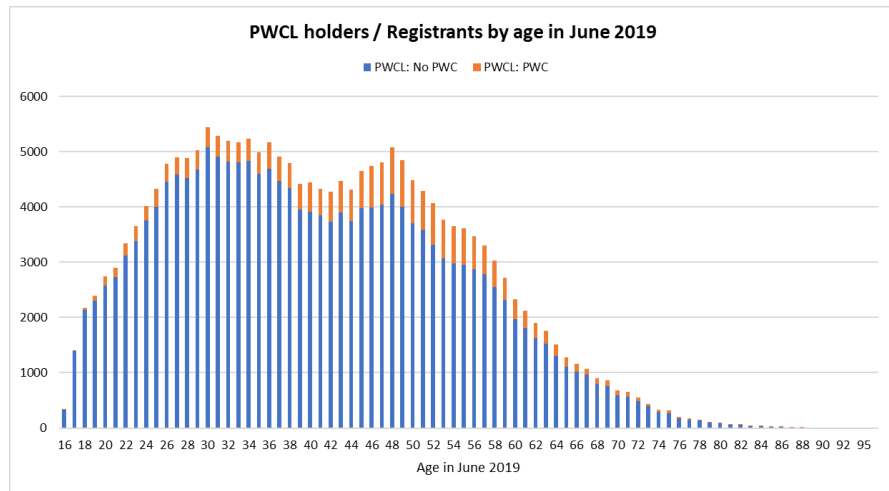
The mean age of the holder of a PWCL who had registered a PWC was 45 years, while the median age was 46. Ten per cent of these PWCL holders were more than 60 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 27 years of age and 50 per cent were between 36 and 53 years of age.

The mean age of the holder of a PWCL who had not



registered a PWC was 40 years, while the median age of all persons who had registered a PWC was 39. Ten per cent of these PWCL holders were more than 59 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 23 years of age and 50 per cent were between 30 and 50 years of age.

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 48 years 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 (15% vs. 7%) to be the registrant of at least one PWC.

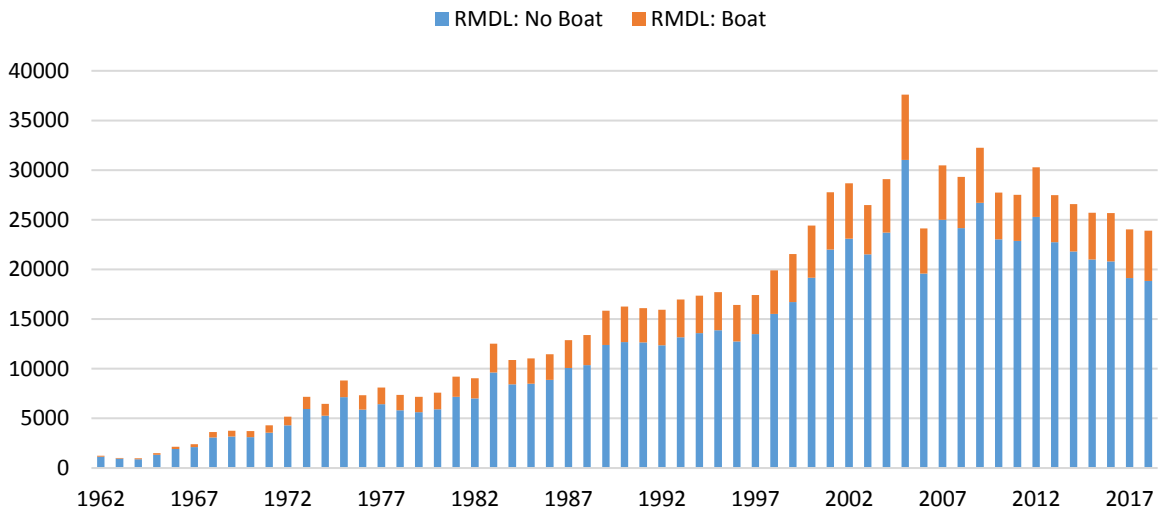
Twenty-three per cent (46,650) of PWCLs have been issued to women, 5.6 per cent (2,601) of whom had registered at least one of 2908 PWC, which accounts for 11 per cent of all the PWC registered by licensees.

Forty-two per cent of current PWCL were issued between 2005, the first year in which PWCL were issued, and 2010. Eight per cent of these licensees were the registrants of a PWC. The remaining 58 per cent of PWCL were issued between 2011 and 2019. Thirteen per cent of these licensees were the registrants of a PWC.

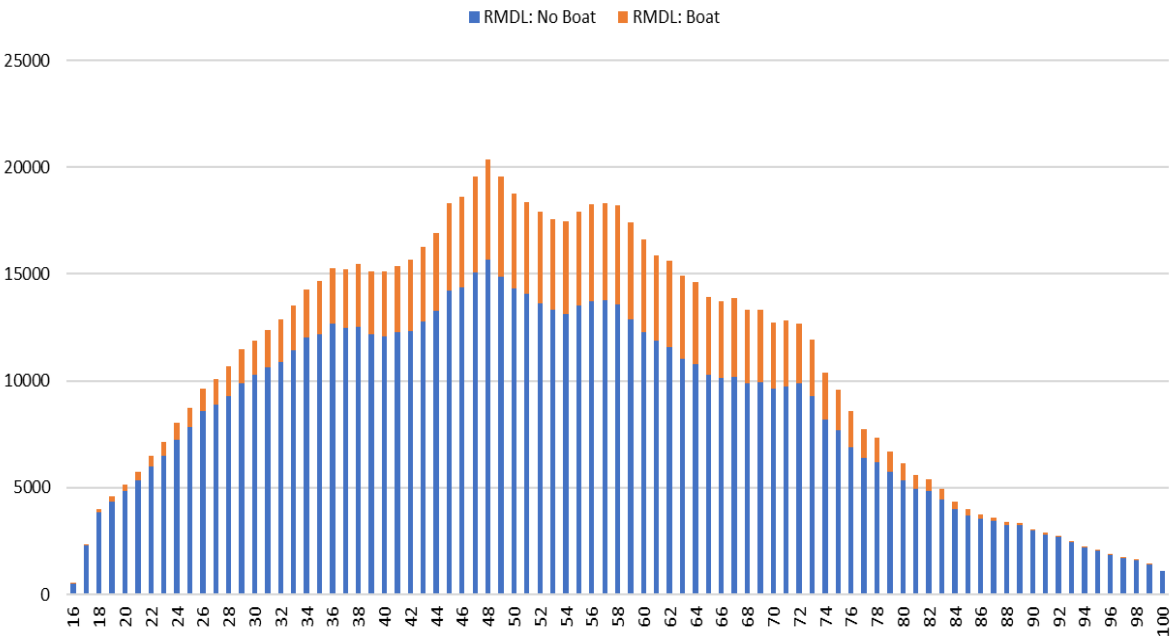
The majority (78%) of PWCL holders were resident in the Brisbane Maritime Region followed by the Gladstone Maritime Region, which accommodated a further 9.3 per cent of PWCL holders. The Mackay, Townsville and Cairns regions accommodated 3.1, 4.3 and 4.3 per cent of PWCL holders respectively.

PWCL holders in the Townsville Maritime Region were the least likely (9%) to be the registrants of a PWC and, at 1.09 PWC per registrant, registered the lowest average number of PWC per registrant. In the other three Maritime Regions 10 to 12 per cent of PWCL holders were the registrant of a PWC, registering an average of 1.1 PWC per registrant.

### RMDL holders / Registrants by year RMDL Issued 1962 - 2018



### RMDL holders / Registrants by age in 2019



**Table 1: Licensees, Registrants, and Vessels at June 2019**

	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	586070	585822	98286	110073	155539	18591	20669
Gladstone	132021	131975	35001	40880	18445	1962	2162
Townsville	48864	48817	13648	16539	6250	744	834
Mackay	66356	66343	16362	19574	8499	742	812
Cairns	70008	69946	15395	18357	7875	811	891
Ex QLD	10945	10931	314	335	2062	87	92
<b>Gender of Licensees</b>							
Female	157390	157343	8418	9164	46650	2601	2908
Male	756764	756381	170586	196592	152020	20336	22552
Unspecified	110	110	2	2			
<b>Age of Licensees</b>							
Oldest Generation 1891–1926	20696	20696	148	155	3		
Lucky Generation 1927–1946	116183	116170	15959	18106	2082	263	287
Baby Boomer 1947–1966	310311	310161	78326	91793	40332	6535	7405
Generation X & Y 1967–1986	334715	334484	70012	79970	93433	12024	13411
I Generation 1987–2006	131705	131669	14552	15725	62818	4115	4357
Not Recorded	654	654	9	9	2		
<b>Year RMDL Issued</b>							
1962 to 1980	89799	89799	16271	20039	2628	400	453
1981 to 2000	306292	306292	67941	81506	28399	5202	5963
2001 to 2010	293502	293502	53629	59988	70659	6831	7605
2011 to 2015	137559	137559	23874	25759	55228	5314	5810
2016	25686	25686	4871	5216	12286	1398	1506
2017	24035	24035	4899	5199	11519	1378	1503
2018	23914	23914	5080	5412	11784	1655	1800
2019	10948	10948	1966	2065	5652	703	746
Not Recorded	2099	2099	407	494	85	19	21
<b>Year PWCL Issued</b>							
2005	36845	36722	8274	10212	36845	3243	3789
2006 to 2010	46219	46069	6710	7883	46219	3711	4159
2011 to 2015	65605	65513	8982	10230	65605	7175	7934
2016	14898	14877	1976	2232	14898	2206	2399
2017	13908	13894	1914	2141	13908	2163	2398
2018	14260	14245	1957	2178	14260	2630	2849
2019	6935	6920	845	944	6935	1171	1259
<b>No RMDL Issued</b>							
	430		68	80	430	37	53
<b>No PWCL Issued</b>							
	715594	715594	148348	169938		638	673
<b>Total</b>							
	914264	913834	179006	205758	198670	22937	25460

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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