

# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MARINERS

## 27MHz marine radio is on the way out ...

This is the opportunity to commence the discussion with all recreational mariners out there that are still using the 27MHz Marine Band that they need to consider changing to the far superior VHF Marine Band for their vessel/s. It is possible that they aren't aware of the changes to the mandatory radio requirements with the phasing out of the 27MHz Marine Band.

Finally, it's happening. As part of the recent changes to the Recreational Boating rules that are about to be implemented, the 27MHz Marine Band radio is to be phased out albeit over 5 years. For a complete list of changes contact the Department of Transport or download them [here](#).

From a technical view point a much shorter time frame would have been more palatable however to finally have the legislators understand how poor this piece of equipment is and move to eliminate it is a welcome development in safety.

As has been stated many times over many years the 27MHz radio is not monitored by all Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) Groups due to many factors usually due to its poor performance capabilities and localised conditions. That it currently complies but will do little to aid in your safety once you have left the shore places an even greater responsibility on the skipper of the recreational vessel for the safety of his/her passengers and that of themselves.

Again, many VMR Groups have reduced their 27MHz coverage or have even stopped providing coverage for this band in favour of the far more effective VHF Marine Band.

Marine VHF coupled with the VHF Marine Repeaters strategically located around the WA coast give the best possible safety coverage that is linked back to the VMR groups.

Technology is being implemented to give an even more complete coverage and while it will may some time to be fully implemented (it will likely beat the phasing out of the 27MHz Marine Band) but it is coming and will not cater for the 27MHz Marine Band.

The frequencies that are monitored by the Volunteer Marine Rescue Groups are those that are the most suitable for their particular region. Each VMR Group can decide which frequencies they monitor, and their hours of operation and they will vary for very good reasons. Talk with them to ascertain what works.

This is a really simple message. Install a VHF Marine Radio in your vessel.

*And always remember to LOG ON & LOG OFF.*

**Volunteer Marine Rescue Western Australia**

*"your link with life on the water" ...*