



MEDIA RELEASE

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'Tis the season to boat safely

Tasmanians can now boat and fish more safely in the Central Highlands, thanks to extended VHF radio coverage.

A partnership between TasNetworks and Tas Maritime Radio (TMR) has increased marine VHF coverage across the Highland Lakes, covering areas that had little or no coverage before.

TasNetworks and its telecommunications subsidiary 42-24 have provided a two-way audio link from TMR's link base on Mount Nelson in Hobart to Brady's Sugarloaf, allowing TMR to double its existing VHF network coverage area with a new base station at Brady's Sugarloaf.

TasNetworks CEO, Lance Balcombe, said safety and opportunity for Tasmanians is a top priority.

"This improvement helps save and protect lives. It makes a much-loved hobby safer and more accessible for hundreds of Tasmanians," Mr Balcombe said.

"It also helps tour operators and trout fishing guides who can now legally carry customers further into remote areas of central Tasmania, with adequate radio protection," he said.

The Managing Director of Tas Maritime Radio, Barry McCann, said the new base will supplement the existing base at Barren Tier, and maximum viable coverage has now been reached.

"We'll never reach every lake in the Central Highlands, but we now believe we reach at least 85 per cent of them. The Lakes bases are monitored 24/7, and boats can radio in with position reports at any time. Weather information for the area is available on request. The service can also be used to gain assistance for land-based incidents like snake bite, medical issues and personal injury," Mr McCann said.

Tas Maritime Radio provides a listening watch, weather skeds, safety information and rescue co-ordination for Tasmanian boaters on VHF and HF frequencies, from fourteen remote base stations around Tasmania. It was founded in 1975, and is operated completely by volunteers – broadcasting from its operations centre on the summit of Hobart's Queens Domain.

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