

The following Notice to Mariners is published for general information

Australia – Victoria

No. 550 (T) - 2023

PORT OF MELBOURNE YARRA RIVER PORT PHILLIP FERRIES SPEED EXEMPTION

Date: 22 December 2023

Refers: NtM 399 (T) - 23 and is hereby cancelled.

Details: Port users are advised the Masters of the ***MV Geelong Flyer*** and ***MV Bellarine Express*** are exempt from the requirements of Clause 2.7.1 and Clause 2.7.2 of Schedule 2 of the *Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules for Victorian Waters* made under section 184 of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic) until **21 December 2026**.

MV Geelong Flyer and ***MV Bellarine Express*** are subject to the conditions in the attached Exemption Notice 3.21.

Port users are advised that ***MV Geelong Flyer*** and ***MV Bellarine Express*** may operate at speeds up to 25 knots within the Williamstown Channel between Beacons 23/24 (Yarra River Entrance) and Beacon 17 (Breakwater) for inbound and outbound passages.

The ferries operate between Geelong, Portarlington, and Victoria Harbour with scheduled runs seven days a week. For more information on schedules, visit the Port Phillip Ferries website (<http://www.portphillipferries.com.au>).

For further information, please contact the Navigation Services department at NavigationServices@ports.vic.gov.au.

Charts & Publications affected: AUS 155
ENC AU5MEL01

Further notice: Further notice will be issued.



David Tilsley
Deputy Harbour Master
Navigation Services

Exemption Notice 3.21

Exemption Notice 3.21
FOL/13/30081-2

Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic)
Section 260(1) Exemption Notice
Port Phillip Ferries

I, **Kate Maheras**, Director Maritime Safety (as delegate of Safe Transport Victoria) in exercise of the powers vested in me under section 260(1) of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic), hereby grant the following exemption to Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express on the terms set out in this instrument.

1. Application

This notice of exemption applies to the Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express when operating on the Port waters of the Port of Melbourne, between beacons 23 and 24 and the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge.

2. Exemption

Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express are exempt from the requirements of: Clause 2.7.1 and Clause 2.7.2 of Schedule 2 of the Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules for Victorian Waters made under section 184 of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic).

2.7.1 Six (6) knot speed restriction for the purposes of Clause 7

All vessels less than 35 metres in length, on the waters of the Yarra River within the Port waters of the Port of Melbourne, between the Southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge and the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge are subject to a speed limit of 6 knots.

2.7.2 Eight (8) knot speed restriction for the purposes of Clause 7

All vessels less than 35 metres in length, on the waters of the Yarra River within the Port waters of the Port of Melbourne, between the Southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge and a line joining beacons 23 and 24 are subject to a speed limit of 8 knots.

Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express are exempt from the requirements of Clause 4 (a) of the Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules for Victorian Waters, Notice S221 published in the Victorian Government Gazette on 28 June 2012 when operating on the Port waters of the Port of Melbourne between beacons 23 and 24 and the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge, made under section 15 of the Marine Act 1988.

3. Conditions

The exemption is subject to the following conditions:

1. Operational Requirements between a line joining beacons 23 and 24 and the Southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge on inbound and outbound passages.
 - (i) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 15 knots on inbound and outbound passages.
 - (ii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express may only exceed 8 knots when the visibility in the area of operation is greater than 200 metres.
 - (iii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will slow to 8 knots or less when visibility is equal to or less than 200 metres.
 - (iv) The Master of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will contact other operators when transiting the Yarra River when the visibility in the area of operation is equal to or less than 200 metres.
 - (v) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will display an amber flashing light at all times while underway.
 - (vi) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will contact other identified operators on the Yarra River when transiting the Yarra River.

2. Operational Requirements between the Southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge and Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge on inbound and outbound passages.
 - (vii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 10 knots on the waters between the Southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge and beacons 39 and 40 when the Bicycle Punt is berthed at the Lorimer Street landing (eastern side of Yarra River) on inbound passages
 - (viii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 6 knots on the waters between beacons 39 and 40 and the Port Operations Control Centre on inbound passages.
 - (ix) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 15 knots on the waters between the Port Operations Control Centre and the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge on inbound passages.
 - (x) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 15 knots on the waters between the Western drip line of the Bolte Bridge and the Port Operations Control Centre on outbound passages.
 - (xi) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 8 knots on the waters between the Port Operations Control Centre and beacons 39 and 40 on outbound passages.
 - (xii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express do not exceed 12 knots on the waters between beacons 39 and 40 and the Southern drip line of the West Gate Bridge on outbound passages.
 - (xiii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express may only exceed 6 knots when the visibility in the area of operation is greater than 200 metres on inbound and outbound passages
 - (xiv) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will slow to 6 knots or less when visibility is equal to or less than 200 metres on inbound and outbound passages.
 - (xv) The Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will contact the Master of the West Gate Punt to verify the time they will be passing the area where

the West Gate Punt operates when the visibility in the area of operation is equal to or less than 200 metres.

- (xvi) The Master of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will contact other operators when transiting the Yarra River when the visibility in the area of operation is equal to or less than 200 metres.
 - (xvii) MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will display an amber flashing light at all times while underway.
 - (xviii) The Master of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express will contact other identified operators on the Yarra River when transiting the Yarra River.
4. A lookout who is suitably trained and briefed, in addition to the Master of the ferry, is present on the bridge while the ferries are operating the area applicable to this exemption
 3. A promulgated passage plan including operational times is to be made available to appropriate regulatory authorities and published on the Port Phillip Ferries website.
 4. Situational awareness tools including radar, AIS, ECDIS, electronic chart plotter with displayed AIS tracks and Thermal Cameras are to be used.
 5. The Masters of the MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express shall ensure that the installed AIS transceiver is active at all times while the ferries are underway
 6. Safety Management Systems documentation for MV Geelong Flyer and MV Bellarine Express are to reflect the operational requirements for operations on Victorian waters and the Yarra River transit. The Safety Management Systems to include:
 - Passage plans and operations to and from Victoria Harbour to Portarlington and Geelong.
 - Passage plan and operations documentation to include specific details of risks and controls as identified during the duration of this exemption.
 - Speed during transit to or from Portarlington or Geelong and Victoria Harbour in relation to general operations and operations in heavy traffic and reduced visibility.
 - Qualifications of crew.

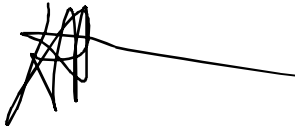
Training requirements for masters, mates, and lookouts for operations in the area applicable to this exemption, including but not limited to simulated emergency stopping, restricted visibility and evasive action training including situational awareness and lookout/master response, and specifically:

1. NSCV F2 Fast Craft Training with annual verification
 2. Lookout Training and annual onboard check trip assessment for Lookout and Master to PEM standard
 3. Vessel Handling Training
 4. Advanced Navigation Training
 5. Emergency management exercise every two years
- Docking and entering/ departure Portarlington, Geelong, and Victoria Harbour.
 - Details of vessel operations.
 - Specific duties of lookout.
 - Emergency contact details.
 - Communication requirements with the Master of the Yarra Punt and other identified operators on the Yarra River.
 - Procedures for reporting Reportable Marine Incidents as per *Marine Safety Act 2010*.
 - Specific details of reporting locations for Melbourne VTS and details to be provided to VTS.

8. Port Phillip Ferries will initiate an on online feedback system for feedback during the period of this exemption.
9. The Director, Maritime Safety reserves the right to cancel or amend the exemption or conditions in his or her right, or on the advice of the Harbour Master - Port of Melbourne, should hitherto unforeseen risks be identified or to impose additional conditions or vary current conditions. The exemption is subject to periodic review.

4. Duration

This notice of exemption revokes all previous exemption notices and commences on 21 December 2023 and expires on 21 December 2026.



KATE MAHERAS

DIRECTOR, MARITIME SAFETY

Delegate of Safe Transport Victoria

21/12/2023