

Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 feedback

* Compulsory question

Your contact details

Only your name will be publicly visible as part of your submission.

Name	Francois Lambrechts
Email address:	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]
Postal address	[REDACTED]
Do you wish to speak to your submission at a public hearing?	<input type="radio"/> No

Please make sure you have provided your contact details (email and/or phone number) so we can be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online. Hearings will be livestreamed.

Hearings will be sometime in late February to March 2026 (date will be confirmed closer to the time).

Your feedback

Please give us your feedback on the changes to the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2020, as outlined in the Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026. What would you change? What do you support or not support?

Subject: Submission on Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 – Speed limits in Company Bay / Macandrew Bay area

Dear Otago Regional Council team

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026. I appreciate the work that has gone into updating the bylaw and its focus on improving safety for all users of Otago Harbour.

I am writing to raise a concern regarding potential confusion around speed limits in the secondary channel that runs past Company Bay and Macandrew Bay.

My understanding is that, unless a specific speed uplift or Special Speed Zone is provided for in a bylaw, Maritime Rule Part 91 applies. This means vessels must not exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of the

shore or any structure, and within 50 metres of a person in the water. The draft bylaw itself reflects this understanding in the explanatory note under the definition of "Speed".

In the Company Bay and Macandrew Bay area, the navigable channel does not extend much more than approximately 200 metres offshore at any point. As a result, vessels in this area should generally remain at or below 5 knots at all times. However, in practice, vessels frequently travel well in excess of 5 knots through this section of the harbour.

There are also 5-knot marker buoys in Macandrew Bay, and I am concerned that some boat users may interpret these markers to mean that once they have passed them, higher speeds are permitted. In this particular area, that interpretation would be incorrect under the default maritime rules, as vessels are still within 200 metres of shore.

Given the popularity of this area with swimmers, paddleboarders, and other low-profile water users, I am concerned that the current ambiguity creates a real risk of a serious incident in the future.

I respectfully suggest that the final bylaw, supporting maps, or signage could be strengthened to make the applicable speed limits in this area clearer and more explicit. This could include clarifying that no speed uplift applies in the Company Bay / Macandrew Bay secondary channel unless specifically stated, or improving signage and education to reinforce the 200-metre rule.

Thank you for considering this submission. I raise this in the spirit of improving clarity and safety for everyone who uses Otago Harbour, whether by boat or in the water.

Kind regards
Francois Lambrechts
Dunedin

Upload any supporting documents (optional)

Upload any documents you have to support your feedback, or upload your feedback itself. For visual and audio feedback, please include the links in a document.

Accepted file formats: PDF, Word, Excel, JPG, PNG.

Max size of each file: 5 MB

Maximum number of files you can upload: 3

About you (optional)

What area do you live in?

Which age group are you in?

Which of the following describe/s you? Select all that apply.

Please specify.

