

WATERWAY SAFETY

Petition

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [1.01 pm]: I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Assembly. It has 7 800 signatures.

Before I read the petition, I would like to acknowledge Tye Smith's family, who are present in the gallery today—Lee Smith, Colin and their sister Ella, and Ella's partner, Corey.

The SPEAKER: They are very welcome to the Speaker's gallery and the Parliament today.

Mr K.J.J. MICHEL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The petition reads —

To the Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, urgently call on the State Government to improve waterway safety by ensuring that all moorings and moored vessels are equipped with adequate lighting.

Mr Tye Smith's life was tragically cut short due to a likely preventable accident involving his boat and an unlit tug boat in the water of the Dampier Archipelago. This incident is not an isolated occurrence. Tragic accidents involving vessels colliding with unlit moorings and moored vessels have previously occurred in the Dampier Archipelago, leading to injuries and loss of life. Recreational boaters heavily rely on GPS technology to locate these moorings within Dampier Archipelago area, it is important to recognise the challenges posed by factors such as tidal shifts, varying mooring lengths and vessel sizes. These factors can cause deviations from the original GPS coordinates, making navigation to moorings and moored vessels hazardous during nighttime hours without proper illumination.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Assembly to investigate and recommend that all commercial moorings and moored vessels are to be equipped with adequate lighting. This adjustment to the existing regulations would substantially enhance the safety of recreational and commercial watercraft navigating these waters.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter.

[See petition 46.]