



## Trailers vs Marinas vs Moorings: The Pros And Cons Of An Imperfect Choice

One of the fundamental issues facing boat buyers at this time of the year is the vexing question: Where to keep the new boat? As Editor Peter Webster explains, it is not a black and white issue, either, with most boat buyers facing several, but often less than perfect choices. Especially if you live in Sydney or Melbourne.

One of the ongoing issues boatowners are continually having to review concerns the viability (or otherwise) of keeping their boat on a mooring, or in a wet berth marina, in a rack and stack or hard stand situation, or lastly, on a trailer.

This issue effects many thousands of boatowners across Australia, as a number of factors emerge to keep changing the equation, and to blur the lines of distinction between the various methods of securing one's boat.

In recent years, trailer technology has reached new heights, and with the singular and painful exception of the state of NSW, it is now easier and simpler to tow boats up to 7.5 m LOA, than ever before. Equipped with a modern heavy weight 4WD of the Landcruiser, Patrol or Holden Suburban kind (or middle weight Pajero, Jackaroo, Explorer, Prado, Cherokee) it is remarkably easy to tow big boats on our growing network of excellent highways. Australian boatowners can now purchase sophisticated



The quality and scope of launch ramps and boating facilities in Queensland is now so good, there is an overwhelming case to sustain the trailerboating philosophy - especially in view of the vast distance involved in the Queensland coastline. In the future, many people (the writer included) believe the key will be to maintain transportable craft that can be relocated from one great marina site to another. For example, boatowners could keep their boats at Runaway Bay (facing page) through the summer, and re-locate (by road) to 'winter' at Laguna Quays' superb Whitsunday facility (below). Or enjoy summer in Port Stephen, NSW, and spend the winter months out of Yorkeys Knob in Cairns, FNQ. Bears thinking about, doesn't it?

trailers with excellent all-power disc brakes, balanced suspensions, safe, stable handling and the ability to be launched and retrieved by children, let alone experienced adults.

This has changed the way we think about trailerboating in many parts of Australia, although as noted, NSW is steadfastly staying in the 1960's with its out of touch and out of date rules governing the

