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## Media Release

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### **INNOVATIVE DECK HATCH GIVEN BIG TICK BY INDUSTRY**

There isn't a marine, commercial operator on the planet, which likes any form of hazard on their deck. For a long time, one of the greatest trip hazards has been deck hatches. The hatches are in place, to allow access to the lower compartments of the hull, but are often placed in a high foot traffic area, which can be highly dangerous. P&W Marine Engineers have designed a hatch that solves this problem.

The innovative deck hatch is a culmination of ideas stemming from years of research with boat builders and operators alike.

They are made from high quality, marine grade aluminium CC601 and 316 SS and are welded into the deck perfectly flush. The weld in section of the hatch is cast in either aluminium or steel to suit the vessel construction material.

The secret though to the perfectly flush hatch, is the operating mechanism to open the hatch. As opposed to ordinary hatches that have a large handle on top, which pool water and cause trip hazards or snag hazards for ropes, the P&W Marine Engineers hatch has no protrusion or concave sections. A stainless steel key is used on the hatch lid, which is kept separate to the hatch. It turns the almost hidden stainless steel hex in the middle of the hatch lid to operate the locking mechanism.

Aluminium Boats Australia General Manager Tommy Ericson agrees, *"this new hatch has resulted in a great solution which we can confidently fit to our new construction and refit projects knowing the owner & operator will appreciate the time and effort invested in the design process for many years to come."*

To further the ease of use for the operator, the hatch is hinged and once partially opened, will hold itself open with two marine grade stainless steel gas struts. This eliminates hatches accidentally closing on personal, whom may be using them in rough seas.

The P&W Marine Engineers deck hatch has solved problems that have long been considered standard practise for everyday use of deck hatches. The flush weld in section and top side of the hatch makes it the only choice for commercial operators who value safety.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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