

## Other electric boating options

As pollution, noise and fuel costs have become recognised as serious issues with current boating practices, more electric boating options have become available.

The most common electric boat motors are the small 'trolling' outboard motors, which are used as backup motors and for moving a boat slowly and quietly through the water. These are available from several manufacturers including Minn Kota, Torqeedo (see the product writeup in the Products section of this issue), MotorGuide, Omoto and Jarvis Walker (at right). All of these companies make a range of motors for moving boats up to six metres or more in length, and some of these motors are powerful enough to be the prime motive force for many vessels. Some trolling motors have battery packs built in, making them a complete stand-alone device without the need for external battery packs, but an inbuilt battery will have a limited range compared to a larger capacity external battery.

Outboards are not the only way to go electric boating. Several manufacturers make purpose-built electric boats. A good example is the range available from Solar Boat in Hunters Hill, NSW ([www.solarboat.com.au](http://www.solarboat.com.au)). They have their own models, including commercial boats such as the 45 seat ferry below, as well as the Duffy range from California, which features boats up to 6.7m (22 feet) in length.

Ecoboats Australia of Kirribilli NSW ([www.ecoboats.com.au](http://www.ecoboats.com.au)) also sell the Duffy and Solar Boat range of vessels, as well as inboard and outboard drive systems. They also have an electric boat hire service.

Vorta Power Systems in WA ([www.vortapowersystems.com](http://www.vortapowersystems.com)) make a marine jet powered small boat (basically a large canoe style boat) that is ideal for quiet boating in rivers and other calm waters.

The Electric Boat Association of Australia aims to promote electric boating and to help both commercial operators and individuals in their electric boating needs. See [www.electricboats.com.au](http://www.electricboats.com.au) for details.

