

Moreton Bay Marine Park

Personal Water Craft (PWC)

PWC use in Moreton Bay Marine Park

Jetskis, waverunners, waveriders and similar motorised personal watercraft are often referred to as Personal Water Craft (PWC). This information sheet is one from a set of five provided for PWC users in Moreton Bay Marine Park (MBMP).

Other information sheets include; Whales, dolphins and PWC in MBMP, Shorebirds in MBMP, Turtle and dugong go-slow areas in MBMP and Moreton Bay Marine Park Zones and PWC.

Personal watercraft operating in Moreton Bay Marine Park

The use of personal watercraft (PWC) such as jet skis has become a popular recreational activity in Moreton Bay and is recognised by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) as a valid use in some areas of the Bay. PWC use is an established family orientated sport. In many respects depending on how they are used PWC operation is more environmentally friendly than conventionally powered vessels as they produce less noise and less pollution (e.g. no oil slicks from PWC). However, when PWC are used inappropriately, they can impact on the natural environment by disturbing shorebirds and upsetting the recreational values of Moreton Bay for other users. Inappropriate use includes congregating near residential or populated areas and driving around repeatedly in one location. To minimise these impacts, personal watercraft are allowed in most parts of Moreton Bay Marine Park (the zoning plan allows for PWC use in more than 87 percent of the marine park) but are restricted or prohibited in others. To understand why restrictions exist, it is important to understand the significance of Moreton Bay Marine Park and its zoning plan.

What's special about Moreton Bay?

Moreton Bay is recognised internationally for its significant wetlands, which provide crucial habitat for the survival of resident and migratory wader birds. It also provides habitat and food for a number of threatened species including several species of turtle, the dugong and the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin. It offers a wide range of recreational activities as well as areas of significance for Aboriginal and European cultural heritage. Moreton Bay's mangroves and seagrass provide nursery grounds for a variety of fish, crabs and prawns of commercial value. The Bay is an important area for recreational and commercial fishing.

Moreton Bay Marine Park

Moreton Bay Marine Park was declared in 1993. Its boundary covers most of Moreton Bay's tidal lands and tidal waters and extends generally three nautical miles off the east coast of Brisbane, Moreton, North Stradbroke and South Stradbroke islands. The QPWS has primary responsibility for managing the marine park.

Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan

To provide a balance between human needs and the need to conserve its natural and cultural values, the QPWS has developed a zoning plan over the marine park. The Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan has five zones. The objectives of each zone define the activities which are allowed, need a permit or are prohibited. An introductory guide explaining the zoning plan is available from QPWS or copies of the legislation are available from Go Print.

What can I do to help?

Each PWC operator can do their part to reduce disturbance of shorebirds by:

- slowing down when near a group of shorebirds;
- taking the most direct route when landing on shore or going from shore to the nearest water of navigable depth;
- taking a wide berth around groups of feeding or roosting shorebirds; and
- avoid operating your watercraft repetitively near the shore if shorebirds are present.

To reduce the risk of striking turtles or dugong, personal watercraft operators should:

- avoid travelling over seagrass beds and in shallow water; and
- keep a lookout for surfacing dugong and turtles and avoid going near them.

Regulations

Each PWC operator must:

- not operate within buffer zones or protection zones;
- stay within the navigation channel when travelling in conservation zones;
- operate off the plane in “turtle and dugong go slow areas”; and
- operate your PWC in a way to avoid hitting a turtle or dugong.

Breaches of the above regulations attract on-the-spot fines.

Remember the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hotline number **1300 130 372 or 1300 130 EPA**. Use this number to report any injured or dead marine animals to QPWS.

For further information contact:

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