

MEDIA STATEMENT

25 January 2018

Far North rains open way to skiing trial

Much-needed rain has brought a dramatic end to Far North Queensland's long dry spell and may have created limited water-skiing opportunities on Tinaroo Dam.

Maritime Safety Queensland general manager Patrick Quirk said a decision had been made to ease the existing six-knot speed limit in a designated section of the waterway.

"Previous low water levels and prevailing conditions suggested the whole lake would remain restricted to six knots for a few more weeks, but recent heavy rainfall means we have cautiously reopened a restricted ski area from today," Mr Quirk said.

"Maritime Safety Queensland worked closely with stakeholders such as water-ski clubs and local government when we introduced the speed limits and we have continued to closely monitor conditions on the dam.

"Thanks to the heavy rain of recent weeks our latest assessment is welcome news for water skiers and dam visitors, especially with the long weekend approaching.

"However we must emphasise the eased speed restrictions apply only to a designated section of the dam.

"Any activities carried out will require boaties to observe their general safety obligation as well as exercising considerable caution.

"The six-knot limit will remain in force for the rest of the waterway.

"Six-knot speed limit signs will remain at boat ramps and camping areas where the restrictions still apply.

"Boaties can expect to see Water Police and Queensland Boating and Fisheries patrols of the lake, campsites and boat ramps over the long weekend.

"Speed limits will be enforced and there are penalties for exceeding the limit of up to \$365."

Mr Quirk said MSQ would continue to review speed limits over coming weeks based on advice from SunWater about anticipated dam levels.

A map of the new speed restriction zones will be available on MSQ's Notice to Mariners page.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating/notices/far-north-qld>

ENDS

Contact: TMR media 30667060