

MEDIA STATEMENT

22 December 2017

Six knots set for safety on Tinaroo this summer

Far North Queensland's long dry spell will restrict recreation activities on Lake Tinaroo with a six-knot speed limit coming into force from January.

Maritime Safety Queensland acting general manager Jim Huggett said the decision was discussed with stakeholders earlier in the week.

"The current water levels and prevailing conditions suggest Tinaroo Dam levels will have reached a critical point for safe navigation by the end of the year," Mr Huggett said.

"Unfortunately this means gazettal of a six-knot speed limit for the entire dam so activities such as water-skiing cannot continue until a return to safer conditions.

"Maritime Safety Queensland has been working closely with the dam operators, SunWater, local government, accommodation providers and water-ski clubs.

"Based on water level predictions, the new speed limit will come into force in the first week of the New Year from Friday, January 5.

"We will continually review conditions as the date approaches, but we do not expect any changes and we have attempted to give dam visitors as much advance notice as possible.

"Maritime Safety Queensland will work with SunWater and Tablelands Regional Council to ensure boaties are aware of the speed restrictions when they come into effect."

Six-knot speed limit signs will be set up at boat ramps and camping areas.

Water Police and Queensland Boating and Fisheries patrols can enforce the speed limit and there are penalties for exceeding the limit of up to \$365.

It's expected patrols of the lake, campsites and boat ramps will also be increased to advise boaties of the speed limit.

MSQ will continue to review speed limits on advice from SunWater on anticipated levels throughout the new year.

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

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