

Maritime Safety Queensland

Marine Information Bulletin

Recreational boating in Queensland with the Movement and Gathering Direction

Issued 31 May 2020

The Queensland Government has announced a further easing of restrictions with travel opened up across Queensland for Queenslanders, which includes the lifting of restrictions for recreational boating.

From midday on Monday 01 June 2020, recreational water-based travel will be permitted anywhere in the State for as many nights as you like (except restricted areas). Queensland border restrictions remain in place.

Social distancing

Social distancing rules always apply – special attention must be paid at congestion areas like boat ramps and refuelling points. Additionally, there is also the unnecessary contact risks you may create if you need assistance when out of the water – hence, for those venturing out prepare well before leaving home.

Important to note

Please be aware all agencies and rescue groups are following the Chief Health Officer directions within their work areas. All emergencies will be dealt with as a matter of priority, but less urgent incidents may potentially take longer to respond to. Volunteer marine rescue organisations and Maritime Safety Queensland continue to provide a marine distress emergency radio watch on marine VHF channels 16 and 67.

Skippers safety

Skippers are advised to notify a family member or close friend of their trip, including the route they intend to take, their destination and estimated time of return; with instructions to call 000 if they do not return within a given period. Skippers are reminded that a number of entities may have specific restrictions in place for their local areas with information available on their respective websites. Some examples are:

- recreational areas such as dams, lakes and weirs
- closure of camping areas within Queensland National Parks, state forests and recreational areas
- access to some remote and indigenous communities including islands
- local government operated marine facilities.

Skippers are always responsible for the safety of their vessel and the people on board. This includes trip planning, vessel fully serviceable, having the appropriate safety equipment, keeping a proper look out and proceeding at a safe speed.

Information is subject to change based on the latest advice from the Chief Health Officer. Find the latest advice here: <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>