

30 September 2024

MSQ relaxes anchoring restrictions on the Noosa River

- Maritime Safety Queensland has relaxed anchor restrictions on the Noosa River following further engagement with the community and “day tripper” boaties.
- A six-month trial will again allow vessels between 5m and 7.5m to anchor on or near the southern shore of the Noosa River, for up to two hours a day, as long as they anchor safely and responsibly and consider the impact to other river users in the area.
- MSQ will continue to undertake marine pollution audits of vessels on the river including checks for living on board permits and anchored vessel compliance.

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) has relaxed anchor restrictions on the Noosa River following further engagement with the community and “day tripper” boaties.

After receiving positive feedback from the Noosa community about the implementation of anchoring restrictions on Noosa River’s southern shore mid-July 2024, MSQ has also listened to the feedback related to accessing the shore, balancing risk and safety implications and the benefits of public amenity.

MSQ will be implementing a six-month trial to again allow vessels between 5m and 7.5m to anchor on or near the southern shore of the Noosa River, as long as they anchor safely and responsibly and consider the impact or other river users in the area. Vessels 5m or under will still be able to anchor in the area without restrictions, provided they are also anchored safely, are not being used to live-aboard and do not obstruct other river users.

Over the next couple of months MSQ's Marine Officers will be undertaking routine marine pollution audits of vessels on the river, checks for living on board permits and anchored vessel compliance in accordance with existing legislation.

MSQ officers will also be active on the river undertaking boating safety compliance and education activities and rolling out similar shoreline anchoring restrictions to the Woods Bay and Dogs Beach/ Noosa Sound areas to ensure consistency in the lower Noosa River. People are reminded that living on board vessels downstream of Munna Point is prohibited.

MSQ officers have been actively engaged in cleaning up old moorings and abandoned infrastructure from the riverbanks and river itself, leading to much cleaner and safer waterways for everyone to enjoy.

MSQ is confident that the trial for allowing to vessels of 5m - 7.5m in length to access the shore for a maximum 2-hours a day (that is, within a 24-hour timeframe) will be a benefit for the community and all river users.



Noting the success of the staged implementation of the Noosa River Management Plan to date, and lessons learnt during implementation, MSQ will defer the next planned stage of the Noosa River management plan to prohibit unoccupied vessels over 5m in length until after the busy summer holiday period - as long as they are anchored safely, are seaworthy and are complying with all current legislation.

All other timelines of the implementation plan for the Noosa River management plan previously promulgated by MSQ will remain in place.

Quotes attributable to the Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager Kell Dillon:

"Since the new anchoring restrictions were introduced on 15 July 2024, MSQ has been very pleased with the high level of compliance to the new Noosa River management plan, and the success of the program.

"MSQ has continued to communicate with the public and take onboard the feedback provided, which has led to this trial for slightly larger boats to access the area for short periods of time to allow access to parks and local shops for "day-tripper" type of boating activities.

"The trial ratifies the commonsense approach that MSQ has taken to shoreline access since the restriction came into effect.

" MSQ has been pleased by the overwhelming community support for the changes so far, which have delivered obvious reductions in congestion and increased safe access to the shorelines of the busy Noosa River.

"The southern shoreline of the Noosa River is now far cleaner and much safer than it was before MSQ introduced the restrictions."

ENDS

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