

MEDIA STATEMENT**Noosa River anchoring restrictions to start 15 July**

- Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) is making headway on clearing up on the Noosa River, with anchorage restrictions set to start along the busy southern shore from Lake Doonella to the Garth Prowd Bridge from Monday 15 July.
- The changes primarily affect vessels over 5 metres length, as they are no longer allowed to anchor within a distance of 60 metres from the shore or be grounded on the shoreline.
- MSQ officers will be actively contacting the owners of vessels currently within the area so they can relocate prior to the start of the anchorage restriction but it is recommended that owners not wait to be contacted and take steps to ensure they are compliant

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) is making headway on clearing up on the Noosa River, with anchorage restrictions set to start along the busy southern shore from Lake Doonella to the Garth Prowd Bridge from Monday 15 July.

The changes primarily affect vessels over 5 metres length, as they are no longer allowed to anchor within a distance of 60 metres from the shore or be grounded on the shoreline.

On a trial basis, vessels 5m or under are allowed to anchor in the zone as long as they are sea-worthy and comply with all other safety and marine pollution laws.

The new anchoring restrictions from 15 July 2024 include:

- Vessels 5 metres or less, including tenders, will be able to anchor within the restricted area, in order to access shops, services or engage in recreational activities. These vessels are required to comply with all other safety and marine pollution requirements
- Vessels over 5 metres may access the shoreline to set down and pick up passengers, but are not permitted to anchor or ground.

This zone largely reflects the same area where a speed restriction of 6 knots was introduced in September 2023, with the objective of enhancing safety for everyone using the waterway.

All vessels must comply with the speed limits for this area and not cause obstructions or navigation hazards to other waterway users.

While MSQ officers will be actively contacting the owners of vessels currently within the area so they can relocate prior to the start of the anchorage restriction, it is recommended that owners not wait to be contacted and take steps to ensure they are compliant.

Further anchoring restrictions are planned for Woods Bay and Little Woods Bay as part of the progressive Noosa River waterway reforms.

Boaties on the Noosa River may also notice some additional navigation aids being installed to better mark the navigation corridor for safer boating.

As part of the reforms, MSQ will be working to remove vessels that assessed as derelict or abandoned.

Members of the public are reminded that if they have a vessel or structure currently stored on the river and MSQ cannot identify an owner, it may be considered abandoned and ultimately removed by MSQ.

If MSQ officers place a notice on your vessel it is important that you contact MSQ as required or your vessel can be seized, removed and disposed of.

MSQ has also established a dedicated four-person team to implement the Noosa River waterway management plan.

Learn more about the [new plan for boating on the Noosa waterways](#).

Quotes attributable to Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager Kell Dillon:

"MSQ is focused on ensuring that vessels do not pose safety or pollution risks in the waterway, and that anchorage restrictions are part of a suite of actions to responsibly manage those that do,".

"We are aware that there are vulnerable people who may be affected by these reforms, and MSQ will be working closely with them as the new regulations come into effect.

"Education and communication with the community is a priority as the process of implementing the reforms is progressed."

ENDS

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