

# Boating Guide Swan Canning Riverpark Marine Safety



July 2024

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

		REGISTRABLE VESSELS Including sailing vessels that are or can be propelled by mechanical power.	
		PROTECTED WATERS Includes rivers, lakes, estuaries, harbours and waters within 400 metres from the shore in un-protected waters but excludes Cambridge Gulf and Lake Argyle.	UNPROTECTED WATERS Beyond 400 metres from the shore.
<b>Recreational Skipper's Ticket</b> The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 6 horsepower must hold an RST.		✓	✓
<b>Lifejacket Carriage</b> A lifejacket, as indicated in the table opposite, must be carried for every person on board.	Vessels smaller than 4.8m  Vessels 4.8m and larger	Minimum Level 100 MUST BE CARRIED	Minimum Level 100 MUST BE WORN
<b>Lifejacket Wearing</b> As indicated in the table opposite.	Children older than one and younger than 12  Personal Water Craft	Minimum Level 100 MUST BE CARRIED	Minimum Level 100 MUST BE WORN
<b>Distress Beacon (In-date)</b> A GPS enabled 406 MHz EPIRB OR If worn by at least one person, a GPS enabled PLB. Distress beacons must be in-date and registered with AMSA.		RECOMMENDED	✓
<b>Red and Orange Flares (In-date)</b> At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange flares must be carried. OR <b>Electronic Visual Distress Signal (EVDs)</b> An electronic signalling device may be carried in lieu of flares. If a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn) is also carried.		RECOMMENDED	✓
<b>Marine Radio</b> A VHF or HF marine radio on any Registrable Vessel when operating more than 4 nautical miles from shore in un-protected waters.		RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED beyond 4 nautical miles
<b>Recommended Additional Safety Equipment</b> It is recommended an anchor and line, a fire extinguisher and a means of removing water be carried.		RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED within 4 nautical miles

### Contact details

**Department of Transport**  
Email: Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au  
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine  
Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

**Police**  
Emergency: 000  
Water Police: 9442 8600

**Department of Fire and Emergency Services**  
Marine Rescue Western Australia  
Emergency contact: VHF 16

Marine Rescue Whitfords  
Marine Rescue Cockburn

**Boating Weather Forecasts**  
Boating weather: 1300 815 916  
Website: www.bom.gov.au

**Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development**  
Fishwatch: 1800 815 507  
Website: www.dpir.wa.gov.au

**Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**  
Website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au

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Join us at facebook.com/MarineSafetyWA

For further information go to www.transport.wa.gov.au/boatingguides or scan the QR Code

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### Personal water craft

Personal water craft (PWC) – often called jet skis – are craft propelled by an inboard motor powering a water jet pump. The operator sits, stands or kneels on the vessel.

PWCs and similar craft are powerboats as far as the rules are concerned. This means there are rules for the age of skippers, safety equipment, areas they can operate and the distance offshore they can speed.

### Requirements for skippers of PWCs

Every skipper of a PWC must hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST). A skipper who is older than 14 but under 16 years of age with an RST may operate a PWC but only during daylight hours and at a maximum speed of 8 knots.

### Safety equipment

Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket (minimum 50S) at all times.

When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in un-protected waters you need:

- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn).
- flares or electronic visual distress signal device.

Beyond 4 nautical miles from shore in un-protected waters a marine radio must also be carried.

### Freestyling, wake and wave jumping

Freestyling is operating a PWC in a way that the skipper of another vessel would be unable to predict its course or speed in order to avoid a collision, this includes doughnuts, 180 degree turns, hops and jumps etc.

Wave and wake jumping is driving a PWC over a wave or swell with the aim of becoming airborne. The wave or the swell may be formed naturally or by the passage of a vessel.

Freestyling and wake jumping is prohibited:

- within any speed restricted area;
- within 30 metres of another PWC;
- within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water; and
- in the Swan and Canning Riverpark except in the gazetted freestyle area downstream of the Narrows Bridge.

### Water skiing

#### Water skiing rules and regulations

Water skiing involves being towed over water at a speed of 8 knots or more by a motor boat supported on the surface by a ski or skis, an aquaplane or other apparatus, or your feet.

It takes at least three people to go water skiing:

- A driver of at least 17 years of age with a Recreational Skipper's Ticket.
- An observer of at least 14 years of age
- A person being towed by the vessel.

Vessels taking off with skiers always give way to vessels landing a skier.

Beach take off and landings are only permitted in the designated take-off and landing areas.

#### Distance behind a skier

You must not drive any closer than 50 metres directly behind a skier or any other boat.

#### Trick skiing

Trick skiing is prohibited within 100 metres of any take-off and landing areas.

#### Distance from shore

Stay at least 50 metres (or as gazetted) from shore except when landing or taking-off a skier in a gazetted take-off and landing area.

The rules that apply to power boats also apply to boats towing skiers. There are also some extra rules:

- a motor boat can't tow a skier between sundown and 8am in the waters of the Swan River or before 9am and after sunset in the waters of the Canning River;
- deep water take-offs only, except in ski take-off areas; and
- collision rules still apply in ski areas. This means a ski boat has no priority over a boat that is passing through the area.

#### General ski area information

In the Swan Canning Riverpark, you may only ski within gazetted ski areas and between times allowed for that area. Ski areas are marked by signs on the foreshore and some also have their boundaries marked by buoys in the water.

Most ski areas will also have a pictorial sign describing the rules and regulations that are particular to the area i.e. must ski in an anti clockwise direction.

### Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

Parks and Wildlife Service of the DBCA works closely with the community, businesses, and local and State government agencies to protect and improve the ecological health and long-term community benefit of the Swan Canning Riverpark.

#### Boating to keep our rivers healthy

- Take care to minimise your boatwash.** Wash can damage shorelines, injure people, disturb nesting and feeding birds, damage moored boats and interfere with other people's enjoyment of the Riverpark.
- Take home your tenders, dinghies and boats or use an approved storage facility.** Leaving vessels on the foreshore can damage vegetation and prevent access to shorelines.
- Prevent antifouling and cleaning agents, paint, solvents and other chemicals from polluting the Riverpark.** Make sure you only undertake boat maintenance in areas where harmful residues can be collected and disposed of properly.
- Launch and retrieve your boat, tenders or other watercraft without disturbing riverside vegetation or damaging riverbanks.** Boats may only be launched from trailers at the boat ramps shown in this Boating Guide. Riverside plants play an important part in keeping the Riverpark healthy. They provide shelter for native wildlife, prevent erosion and help keep river banks stable. Riverside plants help filter out the nutrients that can trigger algal blooms.
- Make sure fuel and oil never go into the rivers by keeping your engine serviced. Install and regularly change an oil absorbent bilge mat. Refuel carefully and clean up any spillages.** This will save you money and protect the Riverpark's health. Fuel and oil can harm or kill aquatic plants and animals.
- Always take care to avoid disturbing wildlife.** Travelling at high speed in the Riverpark stresses birds and interferes with their feeding activities. Four-wheel drives can damage foreshore vegetation, so leave your vehicle on the road and protect wildlife habitat.
- Take your rubbish with you. Store it on board and dispose of it properly in bins or take it home.** Litter destroys the scenic beauty of the Riverpark, plastic can injure wildlife and broken glass is a hazard.
- Only anchor in areas clear of seagrass and never tie up to shoreline trees. Use the red courtesy moorings.** Courtesy mooring locations are shown in this boating guide, but remember there is a four hour limit between 7am and 7pm. Careless mooring and tying up to trees damages shoreline and riverbed vegetation.

Report activities that may be harmful to the Riverpark by calling DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service on (08) 9278 0981 (Duty Officer). There are penalties for polluting the Swan and Canning rivers or damaging foreshore vegetation.

OVERHEAD POWERLINE CLEARANCE HEIGHTS as shown on chart	BRIDGE CLEARANCE HEIGHTS as shown on chart
17.2m	4.5m
10.0m	2.9m
5.7m	2.5m
9.5m	4.0m
4.5m	6.8m
4.2m	2.6m
11.2m	7.3m
4.0m	3.7m
	5.7m
	4.8m
	4.6m
	7.0m
	6.4m

OVERHEAD POWERLINE CLEARANCE HEIGHTS as shown on chart	BRIDGE CLEARANCE HEIGHTS as shown on chart
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4.0m	3.7m
	5.7m
	4.8m
	4.6m
	7.0m
	6.4m

**BRIDGE CLEARANCE HEIGHTS** as shown on chart

**VERTICAL CLEARANCE AT ANY TIME**

**HEIGHT OF TIDE**

**CHART DATUM**

**SOUNDINGS** shown on chart

**WATER DEPTH**

**ACTUAL WATER LEVEL**

**HEIGHT OF TIDE**

**CHART DATUM**

**SOUNDINGS** shown on chart

**WATER DEPTH**

**ACTUAL WATER LEVEL**

**LEGEND**

- 5 Knot Area
- 8 Knot Area
- 8 Knots Maylands
- Water Ski Area
- Non Public Water Ski Area
- Swimming Prohibited Area
- Closed Waters Motorised Vessels
- Private Moorings
- Courtesy Mooring
- Fuel
- Boat Ramp
- Public Toilet
- Picnic Site
- GPS Validation Marker
- Indicates safe water to the North
- Indicates safe water to the South
- Indicates safe water to the East
- Indicates safe water to the West
- Beacon, port, starboard
- Spar buoy, port, starboard
- Pillar buoy, port, starboard

**SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS**  
A boating guide for the Swan Canning Riverpark

**NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION**  
This is a guide for information only. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for the official charts of the Swan and Canning Rivers WA 898

**Windan bridge**  
PWC are prohibited upstream of the Windan Bridge.

**Speed restrictions**  
A person shall not cause a motor vessel to travel at a speed exceeding 8 knots:

- through the arch of a bridge (except the Mt Henry Bridge);
- in or through a mooring area;
- in any waters having a depth of less than 3 metres (except in a ski area);
- within 15 metres of a vessel under way;
- within 50 metres of –
  - a moored vessel;
  - a person in the water;
  - a jetty or wharf;
  - a riverbank or low water mark.

**Sunset to sunrise**  
A person shall not cause a vessel to travel at a speed exceeding 10 knots in any 'non speed restricted area' of the Swan and Canning Rivers between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

**8 Knot areas**  
Maylands: All waters within and commencing at the Windan Bridge, East Perth on the Swan River, continuing upstream to the downstream boundary of the gazetted Belmont Water Ski Area, is restricted to 8 knots to motorised vessels between the hours of 10:00 and 17:00 hours on every Sunday from 1 October to 30 April

**Personal water craft (PWC)**  
PWC freestyling is prohibited in the Swan and Canning Rivers except in the designated PWC freestyling area in South Perth.

- 1 Closed waters to PWC**
- 2 Belmont water ski area:** All waters of the Belmont water ski area are closed to PWC.
- 2 Public water ski areas**
- 2 Belmont water ski area:** A person shall not drive a motor boat towing a ski tube or other inflatable device.

**Non public water ski areas (WAPWSA)**  
This area is reserved for the use of motorised aquatic events approved by the Department of Transport. The area is closed at all times to all vessels (including paddle craft) unless approved by the Department of Transport.

**4 Lilac Hill water ski area:** This area is set aside for the use of members of the Barefoot Division of the Western Australian Water Ski Association only.

**5 Motorised Vessels:** All designated waters at Maylands, Cracknell Park, Ascot, Point Reserve, Freshwater Bay and Preston Point (refer map) are closed to motorised vessels.

**Crab drop nets**  
The placement of crab drop nets in fairways and channels is prohibited without approval of the Department.

**Recreational Skipper's Ticket**  
The person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of 6 horsepower or less is not required to hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST). A skipper in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor greater than 6 horsepower is required to hold an RST and carry it when boating.

**Age restrictions**  
A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat. RST holders over 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

**Interstate skipper's tickets**  
If you hold a valid current interstate ticket, recognised by DoT and you enter, as a visitor or with the intention of permanently residing in Western Australia, you have three months to have the qualification recognised. For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

### LEGEND

	5 Knot Area		Indicates safe water to the North
	6 Knot Area		Indicates safe water to the South
	8 Knot Area		Indicates safe water to the East
	Water Ski Area		Indicates safe water to the West
	Non Public Water Ski Area		Synchronised Light Legend
	PWC Freestyle Area		Navaid with standard light
	Swimming Prohibited Area		Navaid with synchronised A light (Zm)
	Closed Waters Motorised Vessels		Navaid with synchronised B light (Zm)
	Private Moorings		Navaid with synchronised C light (Zm)
	Courtesy Mooring		
	Fuel		
	Boat Ramp		
	Picnic Site		
	Public Toilet		
	GPS Validation Marker		
	400m boundary		
	Weck		
	Rock awash		

## SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS

A boating guide for the Swan Canning Riverpark  
**NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION**  
 For Recreational Use Only  
 For more detailed information, refer to the Department of Transport Nautical Chart Swan and Canning Rivers WA 898

### Synchronised navigation marker lighting

Navigating at night requires special care and attention. Vessels operating at night, whether at anchor or underway must carry and exhibit the correct lights. To assist with night navigation Department of Transport has installed synchronised navaid lighting. These patterns are identified on the boating guide and will flash together to indicate groups of markers or the recommended track for vessels drawing 2 metres.

### Elizabeth Quay Inset

### Kite boarding and windsurfing

In certain conditions these small, fast moving sailing craft may be difficult to see and skippers need to maintain a proper lookout at all times and take appropriate action to avoid collisions. All windsurfers and kite boarders have a duty of care to ensure their activities are conducted with regard to the prevailing conditions and circumstances and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.



### Canning River crabbing restrictions

The placement of crab drop nets in channels or fairways is prohibited without approval from the Department of Transport.

To ensure the safety of all users of the Canning River, the following restricted areas shall be deemed fairways during the nominated times.

- Crabbing Restricted area 1**  
All waters contained within the marked restricted area from 4am to 9am.
- Crabbing Restricted area 2**  
All waters of the Mt Pleasant water ski area from 9am to Sunset during weekends and public holidays.

It is an offence to place crab drop nets in the above restricted areas during the nominated times and offenders can be fined.

### INDIAN OCEAN

### Distress beacons, EVDS and flares must be in-date

### Paddle craft, kiteboarding and windsurfing

When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) must be worn;
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn);
- flares.

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.



### Personal water craft (PWC)

To operate a PWC you must be at least 16 years of age and hold an RST. Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket at all times.



**8 PWC freestyling** is prohibited in the Swan and Canning Rivers except in the designated PWC freestyling area in South Perth.

### See Bridges Inset

### Bridges Inset

### Bridge and powerline clearances

Clearance heights shown on this sign are in metres above highest astronomical tide (HAT). Actual clearance will vary depending on the tide and/or flood level. The height of the tide throughout the day will vary depending on astronomical and meteorological conditions.

OVERHEAD POWERLINE CLEARANCE HEIGHTS as shown on chart	BRIDGE CLEARANCE HEIGHTS as shown on chart
East Fremantle 17.2m	Fremantle Rail 7.4m
Wilson 10.0m	-North Span 7.7m
Riverton Bridge 5.7m	-South Span 7.7m
East Perth 11.5m	Fremantle Traffic 6.3m
Bayswater 9.5m	-North Span 6.9m
Redcliffe Bridge 4.1m	-South Span 7.4m
Pickering Park 4.5m	Narrows (centre) 6.1m
Success Hill 4.2m	Canning 3.4m
Barkers Bridge 2.6m	Elizabeth Quay Causeway 4.5m
Guildford 11.2m	-Perth 2.9m
Midland 4.0m	-Vic Park 2.5m
Bernley Drive 4.6m	Mt Henry 7.5m
Middle Swan 4.2m	Riverton Pipe 2.4m
	Shelley 6.4m
	Riverton 1.6m

- ### Public water ski areas
- #### Hours of operation
- 1 Swan River:** A person shall not drive a motor boat towing a skier before 8am and after sunset.
  - 2 Canning River:** A person shall not drive a motor boat towing a skier before 9am and after sunset.
- #### General information
- 2 Mt Pleasant water ski area:** No turning within 100 metres of the Mt Henry Bridge.

- ### Non public water ski areas
- 4 South Perth commercial water ski area:** This area is set aside for use of Departmental approved commercial water ski operators only. An 8 knot limit applies to all other vessels.
  - 5 Western Australian Powered Water Sports Area (WAPWSA)**  
This area is reserved for the use of motorised aquatic events approved by the Department of Transport. The area is closed at all times to all vessels (including paddle craft) unless approved by the Department of Transport.

### Speed restrictions

#### General speed limit

A person shall not cause a motor vessel to travel at a speed exceeding 8 knots:

- through the arch of a bridge (except the Mt Henry Bridge);
- in or through a mooring area;
- in any waters having a depth of less than 3 metres (except in a ski area);
- within 15 metres of a vessel under way;
- within 50 metres of -
  - a moored vessel;
  - a person in the water;
  - a jetty or wharf;
  - a riverbank or low water mark.

#### Sunset to sunrise

A person shall not cause a vessel to travel at a speed exceeding 10 knots in any 'non speed restricted area' of the Swan and Canning Rivers between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

#### Canning River

A person shall not cause a vessel to travel at a speed exceeding 5 knots upstream of the Canning Bridge except inside the Mount Pleasant water ski area between the hours of 9am and sunset.

#### Vessels 10 metres or more in length

A person shall not cause a vessel of 10 metres or more in length to travel at a speed exceeding 8 knots in the designated areas in Matilda Bay.

### Personal water craft (PWC)

#### 8 PWC freestyling

PWC freestyling is prohibited in the Swan and Canning Rivers except in the designated PWC freestyling area in South Perth. Other vessels are not permitted in this area.

#### 9 Closed waters to PWC

**Swan River:** All waters upstream of the Windan Bridge.

**Canning River:** All waters upstream of Salter Point.

**Marine parks:** All waters of the Millyu, Pelican Point and Alfred Cove Marine Parks.

#### Private moorings

It is an offence to use a yellow mooring if you do not have authorisation from the Department. Penalties apply.

#### Courtesy moorings

A four hour time limit applies to the use of courtesy moorings between the hours of 7am to 7pm. No time limit applies outside of those hours.

Vessels using courtesy moorings must not exceed the maximum vessel length specified on the mooring buoy.

