

MOTORISED WATER SPORTS (RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL)

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) released the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004 (the Plan) on 15 April 2004. The Plan is designed to protect the outstanding natural values of the Hinchinbrook region and to provide for the long-term sustainable use of this world famous area.

The Plan applies only to Commonwealth waters, which do not include the Hinchinbrook Channel. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is currently finalising a complementary management plan that will cover waters within the State Marine Park such as the Hinchinbrook Channel and intertidal waters.

This Information Sheet provides a brief overview of the concepts and strategies contained in the Plan, relating motorised water sports. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the relevant aspects of the Plan that relate to your activities or style of operation. This may be done by referring to the Plan or one of the specific Information Sheets listed below:

- AIRCRAFT OPERATORS (RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL PILOTS)
- CRUISE SHIP OPERATORS
- BOUTIQUE CRUISE OPERATORS
- BAREBOAT AND HIRE OPERATORS
- PASSENGER TRANSPORT AND SUPPORT SERVICE OPERATORS
- GUIDED TOUR OPERATORS (vessels less than 6 metres)
- GENERAL TOUR OPERATORS
- HINCHINBROOK MAPS

Motorised water sports – general

Motorised water sports include the following:

- any activity in which a personal watercraft (eg. jet ski) is used, except for transport between two places by the most direct and reasonable route (not including irregular driving);
- any activity that involves the towing of a person (eg. water-skiing or para-sailing); and
- irregular driving of any motorised vessel (eg. hooning).

Special management provisions have been developed as motorised water sports can often create a lot of noise and may disturb animals and intrude on other users.

Vessel collisions with large marine animals such as dugongs or marine turtles can seriously harm the animal and your craft. Reduce your speed to minimise risk of collision in areas where marine animals are known to live and use vessel transit lanes when ever possible.

Respect other people using the area and minimise disturbance to other people's activities.

Please note that vessel speed limits (maximum 6 knots) are in force around significant bird sites during the restriction periods (refer to Table 1). Speed restrictions apply to within 200m of significant bird sites, with the exception of Mound (Purtaboi) Island where the restriction extends to 100m only.



TABLE 1: SIGNIFICANT BIRD SITES AND RESTRICTION PERIODS

Sites that have an all year restriction period	Sites that have a restriction period from 1 Oct to 31 March (inclusive)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Island (Brook Islands); • Middle Island (Brook Islands); and • Tween Island (Brook Islands). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Island (Brook Islands); • Mound (Purtaboi) Island; • Pee Rahm Ah (Battleship Rock) Island; • Eva Island; and • Woln-Garin Island.

Motorised water sports – private

- A private person may only undertake motorised water sports in an intensive use Location or outside the designated Locations. Maps showing designated Locations and management settings are available in the HINCHINBROOK MAPS Information Sheet
- A private person may access the entire Hinchinbrook Planning Area with a jet ski, providing they are not using the jet ski for motorised water sports, i.e. they must be travelling by the most direct route between two places and not driving irregularly or irresponsibly.

Motorised water sports – commercial

- As a permitted motorised water sports operator, you will be able to operate all year to the Hinchinbrook Planning Area without having to obtain a booking.
- Motorised water sports (e.g. jet ski tours, para-gliding and water-skiing), as part of a tourism operation, may only be undertaken in an intensive use Location or outside the designated Locations.
- Maps showing designated Locations and management settings are available in the HINCHINBROOK MAPS Information Sheet
- Motorised waters sports operations may only be conducted:
 - with vessels less than 6 metres in length; and
 - from a base that is on land.
- The Plan provides for a limited amount of motorised water sports to be conducted from a larger parent vessel. As above, the motorised waters sports activity can only be undertaken in an intensive use Location or outside a Location, however the craft being used for motorised water sports must not venture further than 0.5 nautical miles (approximately 1 km) from the parent vessel.

Further Information

The Plan and Information Sheets can be downloaded free from the GBRMPA web site at www.gbrmpa.gov.au. Alternatively, you may obtain a copy of the Plan (\$10 charge will apply) or any Information Sheet (no charge) by contacting the GBRMPA or the Rainforest and Reef Information Centre in Cardwell (07 4066 8601).

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