

Update

Buoy Mooring Strategy

Sustain. Enhance. Promote.

Buoy Mooring Management Strategy

Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA) is working to improve the management of buoy moorings in Gold Coast waters. These improvements flow from the *Buoy Mooring Review* in 2014 and our recent *Buoy Mooring Management Strategy* developed to accommodate the Gold Coast's rapidly increasing population, while embracing new technology to improve safety and reduce the impact of buoy moorings on the marine environment.

What changes can you expect?

The most noteworthy change for authority holders will be the gradual phasing out of traditional block and tackle buoy moorings in favour of environmentally friendly moorings, commonly called EFM's.

New buoy moorings within the Moreton Bay Marine Park must already be EFM's and we anticipate EFM's will be the standard throughout Gold Coast waters from around mid-2024. The costs and benefits of the move to EFM's are detailed in the strategy, available on our website.

What else is GCWA doing to improve buoy moorings?

We're also looking closely at the conditions for all buoy mooring authorities, ensuring a best practice approach to buoy mooring administration. This includes things like:

- ensuring vessels don't become grounded or stranded while using the buoy moorings
- granting authorities to one person only, either an individual or a corporate entity
- requiring a photo of each vessel for accurate identification and record keeping
- encouraging authority holders to investigate insurance for their vessels, to make sure they're covered for events like marine incidents and salvage costs if their vessels sink or become wrecked.

On-going administration and renewal of buoy mooring authorities

If you're the holder of a buoy mooring authority, you will have seen the words "First and Final" on the renewal reminder that we sent you. Once the authority expires, it ceases to exist and cannot be lawfully renewed, and the location for the buoy mooring may be offered to the next person on the waiting list. If the authority expires, the buoy mooring will also need to be removed from the water. Please remember to renew your buoy mooring authority before the expiry date.

There may be an opportunity

GCWA will soon be working closely with Healthy Land & Water (HLW), a not-for-profit organisation, to replace a limited number of existing traditional block and tackle buoy moorings in the Moreton Bay Marine Park at no cost to buoy mooring authority holders, through HLW's Environmentally Friendly Mooring (EFM) program.

This program helps to repair key marine habitats that support fisheries, turtles, dugongs and other marine life. So far, HLW have replaced more than 250 buoy moorings within the marine park. Under this program, once a new EFM is established, the EFM becomes the property and sole responsibility of the buoy mooring authority holder.

Over the coming months, GCWA will help to introduce holders of buoy mooring authorities to HLW, who can then provide additional information about their EFM program. HLW will then decide which buoy moorings to replace, in accordance with criteria for their program. In the meantime, you can find out more information about the program on HLW's website at:

<http://hlw.org.au/initiatives/environmentally-friendly-moorings-sad-14646>

A fact sheet for HLW's program is enclosed with this update.

For more information, visit

<https://gcwa.qld.gov.au/management-access/buoy-moorings/>

Who can I contact?

Should you have any questions about EFM's, your authority or our management of buoy moorings, please contact our office during business hours on 5539 7350.

About us

Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA) is a State Government statutory authority responsible for improving access to and management of the Gold Coast waterways.

To find out more about our program, please visit www.gcwa.qld.gov.au

