

LOWER SPEED LIMIT ON GOLD COAST WATERWAYS FOR THE AUSTRALIA DAY LONG WEEKEND

24 January 2024

- All boaties and other waterways users are reminded to check the weather forecast, plan accordingly, stay safe and avoid the waterways during extreme weather.
- Gold Coast Waterways Authority will introduce a 6 knots speed limit on the Broadwater near Wave Break Island for the Australia Day long weekend.
- Queensland Police Service will close Moondarewa Spit Road in Doug Jennings Park on Australia Day to improve traffic management and safety.

Australia Day is historically one of the busiest days on the Gold Coast waterways however with extreme weather forecast over the long weekend, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA) are urging boaties to keep up to date with advice from the Bureau of Meteorology, City of Gold Coast and Maritime Safety Queensland, and stay safe.

GCWA will again set a 6 knots speed limit near Wave Break Island for the Australia Day long weekend, to enhance marine safety. The 6 knots speed limit will come into effect at 12:01am on Friday 26 January 2024 and will end at midnight on Sunday 28 January 2024.

GCWA trialled the 6 knots speed limit last year and found its introduction an effective measure for ensuring greater marine safety during the period of very high levels of water traffic.

GCWA will establish a series of yellow buoys with speed signs to mark the area of the 6 knots speed zone. Additionally, GCWA have placed information signs at all nearby public boat ramps that shows a map of the speed zone to remind people of the lower speed limit.

Maritime Safety Queensland, Gold Coast Water Police, and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol will be actively patrolling the Broadwater to ensure the waterways remain safe and accessible.

The Queensland Police Service will close Moondarewa Spit Road in Doug Jennings Park at The Spit to vehicle traffic on Australia Day, Friday 26 January 2024. This is an important measure to assist with traffic management, as well as pedestrian movements and safety.



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Quotes attributable to the CEO of GCWA Chris Derksema:

'The conditions of the Gold Coast Waterways can change quickly during extreme weather, please remember that strong winds and outgoing tides can cause challenging conditions on the Gold Coast Seaway bar. Ensure that you are up to date with the latest forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology.'

'If the weather is favourable, we're asking all waterways users to slow down to 6 knots on the Broadwater near Wave Break Island, so that everyone's day out on the water is safe and enjoyable. It's very important that everyone on the water behaves responsibly and takes theirs and the safety of others seriously.'

To view speed limit maps, including a map of the area for the Australia Day long weekend speed limit near Wave Break Island, please visit the GCWA website at www.gcwa.qld.gov.au

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