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## 1. Introduction

This code of conduct has been developed to provide guidance to recreational users of the Goondiwindi Natural Heritage and Water Park (the Water Park).

## 2. Operational Rules for the Water Park

The following Operational Rules shall apply to all motorised and non-motorised vessels:

1. All Department of Transport & Main Roads / Maritime Safety Queensland boating rules apply to the Water Park;
2. Launching of vessels is only permitted from the boat ramp adjacent to the Water Park amenities block;
3. All vessels must travel in an anticlockwise direction i.e when leaving the boat ramp you will be heading east with the boat ramp on the starboard side;
4. Access to the Water Park is limited to the fenced area surrounding the amenities block, boat ramp & grounds;
5. Buoys mark the bottom edge of the channel, physical obstructions and areas where entry by 15hp+ vessels are not permitted;
6. There is no skiing within 30m of the boat ramp, designated beach areas or stationary vessel/s;
7. Free-styling on personal water crafts (i.e. jet skis or wave runners) is strictly prohibited;
8. Restricted areas are represented as hatched areas on the Operational Rules map:
  - Red hatched area; Motorised and non-motorised vessels permitted with a maximum speed limit of six knots
  - Blue hatched area; Motorised and non-motorised vessels permitted with a maximum speed limit of six knots



9. Swimmers are restricted to the designated 'Beach Areas'; and
10. No pets, fires, camping or glass bottles are permitted in any section of the Water Park.

All Operational Rules with map are displayed at the Water Park boat ramp.

### 3. General Safety Guidelines

In conjunction with the Water Park Operational Rules, there are a number of on-water safety guidelines which should be observed.

The owner and/or operator of a vessel are responsible for the safety of others and have a general safety obligation to ensure that:

- Inland waterway speed restrictions of 40kts are adhered to;
- The vessel is operated at a safe speed to avoid collisions, injury or damage to other vessels or persons;
- There is awareness of the boating environment, especially in bad weather and restricted visibility;
- The vessel is operated within the environmental limitations;
- Recreational activities are only undertaken during the daylight hours and within Water Park operating hours;
- The vessel is generally operated in the centre of the waterway to avoid shoreline wash, interaction with other vessels, weeds and vegetation;
- The waterway is safe for the recreational activity;
- Mindful of other users, including the number of vessels;
- The water is at a safe depth; and
- All vessels and associated equipment are safe for use.

Further information on marine regulation and safety obligations can be obtained from the Maritime Safety Queensland website [www.msg.qld.gov.au](http://www.msg.qld.gov.au).

### 4. Mooring of Vessels

The mooring or anchoring of vessels at the Water Park or Water Park subdivision outside of the Water Park operating hours is strictly prohibited.

### 5. Closure of Waterway - General

Goondiwindi Regional Council reserves the right to close the waterway to a specific class of vessel type or all vessels under any circumstances deemed necessary.

This decision will be made in consultation with Maritime Safety Queensland and in accordance with the Council's Goondiwindi Natural Heritage & Water Park Operational Management Plan.

In the event of a closure, barricading of the boat ramp and public notification will be enacted.

### 6. Closure of Waterway - Tournaments & Special Events

Goondiwindi Regional Council reserves the right to close the waterway to the general public for the purpose of facilitating a tournament or special event that will provide an economic and/or social benefit to the community. The closure shall be approved for the period of time deemed appropriate by Council.

During the closure of the waterway, the grounds shall remain open to the general public, unless it is the opinion of Council that the closure of the grounds is required to facilitate the event.

Where necessary and to the satisfaction of Council, the applicant shall provide the relevant safety and/or management documents related to the proposed closure.

## 7. Notification of Closures

In the event of a closure of the waterway by either Council or by application, it shall be the responsibility of Council to give notice of the closure by way of public notice on Council's website, social media and signage at the Water Park.

Council shall notify Maritime Safety Queensland, the Goondiwindi Ski Club, and residents of the Water Park Estate (where required) of all closures in a timely manner.

## 8. Incident Reporting

The owner and/or operator of a vessel are obligated to report marine incidents to Maritime Safety Queensland. For marine incidents classifications, refer to the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*.

***In the case of a life threatening incident or emergency dial 000.***

## 9. Emergency Access

Emergency access gates for emergency vehicles are installed on the eastern boundary of the Water Park. The access gates must be kept clear at all times.

Keys to the access gates have been issued to:

- Queensland Fire & Rescue Services;
- Queensland Ambulance Service;
- Queensland Police Service;
- State Emergency Services; and
- Goondiwindi Regional Council.

## 10. Environmental Management

The transferring of fuel or the release of oil, sewerage or garbage into the waterway will not be condoned.

If you witness any pollution from a vessel or suspect oil on the waterway, contact Goondiwindi Regional Council on 07 4671 4671.

## 11. Operating Hours

Access to the Goondiwindi Natural Heritage & Water Park shall be between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm (EST).

If gates are locked, contact 07 4671 4671.

## 12. Role of Regulatory Authorities

Goondiwindi Regional Council is responsible for the operational management of the Water Park grounds.

Maritime Safety Queensland is the regulatory authority responsible for the marine safety regulations made under the *Transport Operations (Maritime Safety) Act 1994*.

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, and Queensland Water Police Service are authorised shipping inspectors and enforce compliance with marine safety regulations.