

MEDIA STATEMENT

12 September 2024

Maritime Safety Queensland cracking down on speeding and lifejackets these school holidays

- Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) Marine Officers and Maritime Enforcement Team Officers will be on the water these September school holidays targeting speeding and lifejacket offences.
- MSQ's increased school holiday patrols will be focussed on reducing the two riskiest behaviours that make boating unsafe.
- Over the past five years, of the 64 people who sadly drowned in boating accidents on Queensland waters, only 5 were known to be wearing lifejackets

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) is urging boaties to stay safe these September school holidays by wearing lifejackets, not speeding and driving to conditions when on the water.

Queensland has more than a million recreational boat license holders, many of whom flock to our pristine waterways over the school holidays.

Maritime Safety Queensland's September school holiday boating safety campaign will target non-compliance with speed and lifejackets regulations.

The safety campaign will be undertaken across the Queensland coast and inland dams and waterways popular with recreational boaties from 14 September to 29 September 2024.

MSQ's Maritime Enforcement Team (MET), which more than doubled in size in the past 12 months, and Marine Officers will be out on the water ensuring boaties are conducting their on-water activities safely for themselves and other waterways users.

Over the past five years in Queensland waters, of the 64 people who drowned in boating accidents only 5 were wearing lifejackets.

Most boating fatalities are drownings that occur where people are unexpectedly thrown overboard.

MSQ's website has more information on [speed limits](#) and [lifejackets](#).

Quotes attributable to Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager, Kell Dillon:

"Speeding is as dangerous on the water as it is on the roads.

"Speeding is even more dangerous when waterways are congested, such as at school holiday times, because it reduces a skipper's decision-making time to avoid accidents.

"Lifejackets are simply the seatbelts of the sea.

"So, I say to boaties, please slow down, wear your lifejacket and make sure everyone with you does too.

"Just like a seatbelt a lifejacket that's not being worn can't save you, or your loved ones."

Areas of MSQ's increased compliance operations for the September school holidays will include:

Sunshine Coast	Noosa, Pumicestone, Bribie Island, Maroochy River
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Gold Coast	Coomera River, Nerang River, Broadwater
Mackay	Kinchant Dam and Offshore waterways around Sarina, Seaforth and Mackay.
Gladstone	Woodgate, Tin Can Bay, Double Island Point, Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay and Inland waterways – Lake Monduran, Awoonga Dam and Fitzroy River
Airlie beach	Airlie Beach region, Whitehaven Beach, Peter Faust Dam (Lake Proserpine).
Brisbane	Moreton Island, Manly, Brisbane River, Scarborough
Townsville	Townsville Region, Magnetic Island – Horseshoe Bay
Cairns	Tinaroo Dam

ENDS

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