

MEDIA STATEMENT

19 September 2019

Riverfire boaties reminded safety before spectacle

Boaties planning to enjoy a close-up view of Brisbane's Riverfire event on Saturday 28 September 2019 should not lose sight of their safety responsibilities.

Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager Angus Mitchell recommends boaties make their way to assigned moorings early and leave after the spectacle with minimal delay.

"Riverfire is a wonderful spectacle and an established highlight on Brisbane's events calendar, and it is up to every vessel operator to ensure the night runs smoothly and safely," Mr Mitchell said.

"Skippers moored on the river still have a duty to keep a proper lookout and ensure their own and their passengers' safety as well as the safety of other vessels at all times."

Mr Mitchell said it was particularly important to remember children under 12 years were legally required to wear a lifejacket on an open boat smaller than 4.8 metres, when underway.

"We are also reminding boaties to stay bright at night as well, by displaying their navigation lights," he said.

Mr Mitchell said Maritime Safety Queensland Shipping Inspectors, Brisbane Water Police and Boating and Fisheries Patrol Officers would be out managing the event from 10am.

About 100 spectator craft including recreational and commercial vessels were expected to converge on their designated mooring areas on the Brisbane River City Reach which extends from beyond the Storey Bridge through to the William Jolly Bridge.

"Maritime Safety Queensland has managed the permit system and issued a notice to mariners," he said.

"They will also help enforce the closure, supported by QFES, maintaining a presence in two vessels.

"Our marine officers will also be on hand on several other vessels, including the Queensland Water Police command vessel, ready to offer immediate advice or assistance.

"Remember, the blood alcohol limit is zero for commercial operators of Class 1 vessels and under 0.05 for all other commercial skippers and recreational skippers – these laws apply on the water just as they do for drivers on the road.

"The skipper is also responsible for the safety of passengers and that includes monitoring their alcohol consumption.

"One of our vessels will carry a Queensland Fire and Emergency crew, with fire-fighting equipment to ensure all contingencies are covered."

As part of the overall traffic management strategy, police will also be on hand at boat ramps to ensure removal of vessels also goes smoothly.

For up-to-date information on road closures and traffic conditions, go to www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or call 13 19 40.
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