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Operation Clearwater brings improvements to Gold Coast waterway compliance

- Operation Clearwater has concluded on the Gold Coast, which improved safety and compliance on Gold Coast waterways.
- The Queensland Government's joint-agency operation focused on targeted education and enforcement activities over an eight-week period, led by Maritime Safety Queensland and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority
- The operation resulted in 2575 vessel intercepts, 279 vessels achieving compliance, and the removal of five abandoned and derelict vessels from the Broadwater.

Operation Clearwater, a coordinated multi-agency operation by the Queensland Government, has concluded after targeting safety and compliance on the Gold Coast waterways, delivering significant improvements in vessel compliance.

Led by Maritime Safety Queensland and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, Operation Clearwater commenced on 11 May 2026 to address non-compliance on the Gold Coast waterways through targeted education and enforcement activities.

The operation brought together government waterways management agencies under a coordinated Incident Management Team led by Maritime Safety Queensland, which was based at the Marine Operations Base in Southport.

During the eight-week operation, 2575 vessel intercepts were undertaken, 279 vessels achieved compliance and five abandoned and derelict vessels were removed from the Broadwater.

Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager Kell Dillon said Operation Clearwater was about ensuring the safety and sustainability of Queensland's waterways.

"The results of Operation Clearwater demonstrated the value of a coordinated approach to improve safety and compliance on one of Queensland's busiest waterways," Mr Dillon said.

"This was an important initiative demonstrating the Queensland Government's commitment to safer, more sustainable waterways, through the collaborative efforts of partner agencies on the Gold Coast.

"Operation Clearwater has delivered strong compliance outcomes and safety outcomes on the Gold Coast, while supporting vulnerable people living aboard vessels who needed assistance.

"The removal of abandoned and derelict vessels from the Broadwater is a significant step towards protecting this vital marine environment for future generations.

"Boaties can expect increased and focused compliance activities to ensure safe, navigable and accessible waterways for the Gold Coast community."

Gold Coast Waterways Authority CEO Chris Derksema said the improvements achieved through Operation Clearwater would have lasting benefits for the Broadwater.

"The Broadwater is one of the Gold Coast's most important community assets and people expect it to be clean, accessible and well managed," Mr Derksema said.

"Addressing long-standing issues and removing abandoned vessels has made a real difference to the condition and amenity of the Broadwater.

"Our focus now is on ensuring those improvements are maintained for everyone who uses and enjoys these waterways."

Following the conclusion of the operation, Maritime Safety Queensland will continue working with the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to maintain day-to-day compliance activities and improve safety outcomes for the Gold Coast's waterways.

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