

Boating Guide **Karratha - Dampier** Marine Safety





March 2017

Personal water craft

A personal water craft (PWC) – often called a jet ski – is a craft propelled by an inboard motor powering a water jet pump. The operator sits, stands or kneels and uses handlebars to steer it.

A person must be at least 16 years of age and hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST) to operate a PWC at a speed in excess of 8 knots.

People aged 14 to 16 years and holding an RST may operate any recreational vessel during daylight hours under a speed of 8 knots.

PWCs and similar craft are powerboats as far as the rules are concerned. This means there are rules on the age of drivers, the distance offshore they can operate, safety equipment to be carried, speed limits and so on. There are, however, a few extra rules and a few concessions which bear in mind the PWC's limitations.

Safety equipment

Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket at all times:

- within 400 metres of the shore it can be a Level 150, 100, 50, 50s;
- between 400 metres and 2 nautical miles from shore in unprotected waters a lifejacket Level 150 or 100 must be worn. An indate, inshore distress flare kit, must be carried;
- between 2 and 5 nautical miles, a Level 150 or 100 must be worn. An indate, inshore distress flare kit and EPIRB, must also be carried; and

Vessels under 3.75 metres are not permitted more than 5 nautical miles offshore.

Freestyling, wake and wave jumping

Freestyling is driving a PWC in such a way that the driver of another vessel would be unable to predict its course and speed in order to avoid a collision.

Wave and wake jumping is driving a PWC over a wave or swell with the aim of becoming airborne. The wave or the swell may be formed naturally or by the passage of a vessel.

Freestyling and wake jumping is prohibited:

- within any speed restricted area;
- within 30 metres of another PWC; and
- within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water.

Contact details

Department of Transport

Karratha: 91596920 website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine

Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Department of Fisheries Karratha: 9144 4337

Fishwatch: 1800 815 507 website: www.wa.gov.au/fisheries

Police

Karratha:9143 7200 Dampier: 9183 1144 Wickham: 9187 1444 Water Police: 9442 8600

Customs

Dampier: 9144 3500 Customs Hotline: 1800 06 1800

Marine Sea Search and Rescue Port Walcott: 0439 870 995 West Pilbara: 0417 932 023 VHF Emergency: Ch.16

Sea Rescue

West Pilbara "VMR685": Ch.16 Wickham "VMR 689": Ch.16 + 81

Department of Parks and Wildlife Karratha: 9182 2000 website: www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

Port Authority

Dampier Port Authority: 9159 6555

Hospitals

Karratha (Nickol Bay): 9143 2333 Roebourne: 9182 0200

Shire of Roebourne

Karratha: 9186 8555 Ranger: 9186 8555

For further information go to www.transport.wa.gov.au/boatingguides or scan the QR Code





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Water skiing

Water skiing within Hampton Harbour is only permitted within the gazetted water ski area.

The person in charge of a vessel engaged in water skiing must be at least 17 years old. There must also be an observer on board, who is at least 14 years old, who constantly watches the skier.

A boat landing a skier has right of way over a boat taking-off. Vessels must not travel any closer than 50 metres behind another vessel towing a skier.

Trick skiing is prohibited within 100 metres of a take-off and landing area.

Vessels towing a skier must remain at least 50 metres or as gazetted from the shore except when taking-off or landing a skier

Diving regulations

Diving flag

A vessel with divers working from it must carry the appropriate day or night signals. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide. Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must also display the International Code Flag "A" of the same minimum size.

The flag can be shown from a buoy, in which case the minimum size must be 300mm in length and 200mm in width. The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

At night the diver's vessel, as well as appropriate lights such as an anchor light, must show three all-round lights in a vertical line: the top and bottom lights red; the middle one white.

People night diving without a vessel must display a yelloworange flashing light that can be seen from a minimum distance of 200 metres.



Safety Equipment		Protected Waters lakes, rivers, inlets and estuaries except Lake Argyle	0-2 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore	2-5 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore	Over 5 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore
TICIL	Recreational Skipper's Ticket The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 6hp (4.5kwp) must hold an RST.	/	/	/	/
<u>-0-</u>	Bilge Pump/Bailer All vessels must carry a bilge pump. Vessels under 7 metres may carry a bailer in lieu of a bilge pump.	1	/	1	1
	Fire Extinguisher Vessels with an inboard engine or carrying hydrocarbon heating or cooling appliances must carry an approved fire extinguisher.	1	1	/	1
	Anchor and Line An efficient anchor and line must be carried.	_	/	1	1
	Lifejacket A lifejacket bearing the label Level 100 (or higher) with the Australian Standard AS 1512, AS 4758 or ISO 12402 must be carried for every person onboard.	-	/	1	1
	Red and Orange Flares (in date) At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange flares must be carried. Two parachute flares may be carried in lieu of the two hand held red flares and a smoke canister may be carried in lieu of the smoke flares.	_	/	/	1
EPHB	EPIRB (in date) A 406 MHz EPIRB registered with AMSA bearing the standard AS/NZS 4280.1 must be carried if proceeding more than 2 miles from the mainland shore or more than 400 metres from an island located more than 2 miles from the mainland shore.	_	_	✓	1
*	Parachute Flares (in date) A minimum of two parachute flares must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the mainland shore.	_	_	_	√
15 ₩	Marine Radio A marine radio must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the mainland shore. The radio can be 27 MHz, VHF or HF.	_	_	_	RSE-0317

Vessels to keep clear of diving signals

All vessels must keep at least 50 metres clear of boats, buoys or areas showing diving signals.

Where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear, the approaching vessel should travel at the slowest possible speed and keep a good lookout for people in the water.

Handy local information

Tidal movements in the West Pilbara are very large. Tidal movements should be considered when planning a boating trip in the area.

Tidal movements restrict the use of the Karratha Back Beach boat ramp. The ramp requires a tidal depth of at least 2.4 metres for most vessels.

Most islands in the Dampier Archipelago are nature reserves and have access zonings. These zonings are shown on the map. Dogs are not permitted on the reserves. For further information relating to the island reserves please contact the Department of Parks and Wildlife on (08) 9182 2000.

Did you know that there are two recognised dive sites in the West Pilbara. The first is east of Delambre Island and the other is near Bare Rock.

Interstate ticket and boat registration valid for three months

Any skipper operating a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 6 hp in WA must hold a WA Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST) or interstate or overseas equivalent.

If you hold a valid/current interstate ticket, recognised by DoT and you enter, as a visitor or with the intention of permanently residing in the State, it will be taken that you hold a RST until three months have elapsed since you entered the State. After that period you must apply for an RST, if you wish to continue operating an RST vessel in this State.

If your boat is currently registered in another State, you have three months grace after bringing it into WA. Recreational boats brought into WA from the NT have 30 days after bringing it into WA. After that time, you must register it in this State.





