



PWC prohibited areas



PWCs are prohibited in most water ski areas unless they are being used to tow a water skier.

Drivers may use the launching facilities within ski areas to launch and recover their craft.

However, once launched the PWC **must** proceed directly out of the water ski area into unrestricted waters.

PWCs are permitted to operate in most of the large offshore water ski areas such as Warnbro, Cockburn Sound and Geographe Bay.

PWCs are prohibited in the Swan River upstream of the Maylands boat ramp also, upstream of Salter Point in the Canning River and in the Swan River Marine Parks.

PWC riders need to check the signs at the launching ramps.

Vessel registration

All vessels fitted with a motor must be registered with the Department and are subject to an annual registration fee.

If your vessel is currently registered in another state, you have three months grace after bringing it into Western Australia before you must register it in this state.

Placement of registration numbers and sticker.

Numbers must be fixed as follows:

- on both sides of the hull where they are clearly visible – not under the flare of the bow – 150mm high;
- the numbers should be black numerals on a white background; and
- the registration sticker must be fixed on the port side of the vessel, adjacent to the registration number.

Further information

For further information about PWCs contact your nearest Department office:

Metropolitan

Marine Safety Hotline..... 1300 863 308

Fremantle..... 9216 8999

Email:.....marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au

Website:www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine

Regional

Broome..... 9192 0200

Karratha..... 9159 6900

Exmouth..... 9949 2079

Carnarvon..... 9941 1830

Geraldton..... 9956 0111

Bunbury..... 9792 6666

Albany..... 9892 7333

Kalgoorlie..... 9022 5999

Esperance..... 9076 2100

Ride Safe

Personal Water Craft Operation



Personal water craft

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

PWCs and similar craft are powerboats as far as the rules are concerned. This means there are rules on the age of drivers, the safety equipment they must carry, the distance offshore they can operate, speed limits and so on. However, there are a few extra rules and a few concessions in regard to PWCs.



Age requirements for skippers

Every skipper of a registrable recreational vessel powered by a motor greater than 4.5kwp (6hp) is required to hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST).

An RST is required to operate a PWC.

The following age restrictions also apply.

A persons who is **at least 14 but under 16 years** of age that hold an RST may only operate a vessel (PWC) during daylight hours and at a maximum speed of 8 knots.

Safety equipment

Every person on board a PWC **must wear** a personal flotation device **at all times**:

- **within protected waters** or **within 400 metres** of the shore in unprotected waters a PFD Type 1, 2, or 3 must be worn;
- **between 400 metres and two nautical miles** from shore in unprotected waters only a PFD Type 1 **must** be worn. You must also carry an inshore distress flare kit, in serviceable condition;
- **between two and five nautical miles**, a PFD Type 1 **must** be worn. An inshore distress flare kit and an EPIRB (unless operating within the metropolitan EPIRB exempt area) must also be carried;
- **vessels under 3.75 metres** are not permitted more than five nautical miles offshore;
- PWCs greater than 3.75m traveling **beyond five nautical miles** of the shore must also carry, in addition to the above, a marine radio and two parachute distress flares.

Speed limit restrictions

Areas with speed limits have signs showing the maximum speed for the area.

PWCs are not allowed to travel at a speed or in a way that causes a nuisance or damage to people or other vessels, or causes damage or erosion to the bank or property.

Powerboats traveling over 8 knots must not be driven:

- through an arch of a bridge (unless water skiing is specifically permitted for a bridge);
- in or through a mooring area;
- within 15 metres of a vessel underway; and
- within 45 metres of:
 - (i) a moored vessel;
 - (ii) a person in the water;
 - (iii) a jetty or wharf; or
 - (iv) a river bank or low water mark.

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 their course or speed in order to avoid a collision, this includes doughnuts, 180°, hops and jumps etc.

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/or 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.

Freestyling is prohibited in the Swan and Canning Rivers except in the gazetted freestyle area downstream of the Narrows Bridge.

Water skiing

There must be a minimum crew of two on a PWC, the driver and an observer. The observer (must be at least 14 years of age) faces backwards to watch the person being towed whilst the driver (must be at least 17 years of age and hold an RST) faces forward to maintain lookout.

PWC drivers need to familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations for each ski areas they use. Pictorial signs (generally located at the launch and recovery sites) provide this information.