Safety Guidelines
Kiteboarding and Windsurfing
Marine Safety

Contact details
Department of Transport
Email: marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine
Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Boating Weather Forecast
Boating Weather: 1300 815 916
Website: www.bom.gov.au/marine

Police
Water Police: 9442 8600
Emergency: 000

For further information go to www.transport.wa.gov.au/kitesafe

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June 2020

Kiteboarding and Windsurfing Safety Equipment

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Lake, inlets and estuaries ☑
Lake Argyle & Cambridge Gulf —

- Lakes, inlets and estuaries
- Lake Argyle & Cambridge Gulf

0-400 metres from the shore
400 metres - 2 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore
2-5 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore
Over 5 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore

For protected waters, a red lifejacket is required. For unprotected waters, a red lifejacket is recommended.

A minimum of two parachute flares must be carried if operating more than 5 nautical miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 nautical mile from an island located more than 5 nautical miles from the mainland shore.

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.

Distress Beacon (in-date)
A 406 MHz PLB or EPIRB registered with AMSA bearing the standard AS/NZS 4280.1 or 4280.2 must be carried if proceeding more than 2 nautical miles from the mainland shore or more than 400 metres from an island located more than 2 nautical miles from the mainland shore.

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Lifejacket
A lifejacket bearing the label Level 50S (or higher) with the Australian Standard AS 1512, AS 4758, AS 1499, AS 2260, ISO 12402 as prescribed in the table opposite.

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Kiteboarding and windsurfing

Kiteboarding and windsurfing is a popular pastime in WA and there are some key actions kiteboarders and windsurfers can take to be safe.

Kiteboarders and windsurfers are deemed vessels in WA and as such must abide by the rules. This means there are rules for safety equipment, areas of operation and collision avoidance that need to be followed.

Lookout

The most important rule on the water is to keep a good lookout. By doing so a kiteboarder or windsurfer can act to avoid a collision which is a key responsibility of an operator and fundamental to water safety.

Avoid collisions

Every person operating a vessel including kiteboarders and windsurfers have a responsibility to take all necessary steps to avoid a collision.

Kiteboarders and windsurfers must not impede or obstruct the safe passage of any other vessel regardless of the circumstances and operators can be held responsible in the event of a collision or other serious incident.

Safe speed

Operating a kiteboard or windsurfer at high speed in a busy boating area is dangerous and can have tragic consequences. Kiteboarders and windsurfers need to determine a safe speed for the area they are operating in.

Slow down when:
- visibility is poor;
- there is lots of traffic on the water;
- your manoeuvrability is restricted by other kiteboarders or water users;
- you are close to navigational hazards; and
- the water is shallow or sea conditions become unpredictable.

Required safety equipment

Kiteboarders and windsurfers are required to carry safety equipment in accordance with the WA marine laws. Ensure your safety equipment is in good working condition and is easily accessible.

Stickers showing the requirements are available from the Department of Transport.

Abandoned equipment

Kiteboarding and windsurfing are hazardous sports and broken or damaged equipment can make it difficult to get back to shore.

It’s a good idea to:
- to tell someone where you are launching from;
- how far you are going; and
- what time you’re expected home.

Always inform the local Police if you’ve had to abandon equipment. In the past marine search and rescues have been unnecessarily activated after locating abandoned equipment.

It’s also a good idea to label your equipment clearly with your contact details so it is returned to you.