PWC prohibited areas
PWCs are prohibited in the Swan River upstream of the Windan Bridge, upstream of Salter Point in the Canning River and in all Swan River Marine Parks.

PWCs are permitted in all Swan and Canning Riverpark water ski areas except for the Belmont ski area.

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

Vessel registration
PWCs, as with all vessels fitted with a motor, must be registered with the DoT and are subject to an annual registration fee.

Tow-in Surfing
Tow-in surfing, is a technique by which a person operating a PWC tows a surfer onto a breaking wave. PWC skippers need to familiarise themselves with the regulations to conduct tow-in surfing in WA to ensure they abide by the law. For further information regarding tow-in surfing, please contact your nearest DoT office or visit our website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/tow-in-surfing.asp

Aerial Freestyle devices
Aerial Freestyle devices, such as jetpacks, hover-boards and fly-boards, are devices which can be connected to a PWC and use the water pressure to propel the device. Anyone engaging in the use of these devices needs to familiarise themselves with the regulations to ensure they abide by the law.

For further information about aerial freestyle devices visit our website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/pwc

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

Boating Weather Forecast
Boating Weather: 1900 955 350
Website: www.bom.gov.au/marine

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information.
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 on the vessel.

PWCs and similar craft are powerboats as far as the rules are concerned. This means there are rules for the age of skippers, safety equipment, areas they can operate and the distance offshore they can travel.

Requirements for skippers of PWCs

Every skipper of a PWC must hold a Recreational Skipper’s Ticket (RST). A skipper who is older than 14 but under 16 years of age with an RST may only operate a PWC during daylight hours and at a maximum speed of 8 knots.

Safety equipment

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

- within protected waters or within 400 metres of the shore in unprotected waters a lifejacket Level 50 (or higher) must be worn;
- between 400 metres and 2 n miles from shore in unprotected waters a lifejacket Level 100 (or higher) must be worn. You must also carry an in date inshore distress flare kit in serviceable condition;
- between 2 and 5 n miles a lifejacket Level 100 (or higher) must be worn. An in date inshore distress flare kit and an in date, registered EPIRB must also be carried.

**Note** – PWCs less than 3.75 metres in length shall not travel greater than 5 n miles from the mainland or 1 n mile from any island greater than 5 n miles from the mainland.

- PWCs larger than 3.75m traveling beyond 5 n miles of the shore must also carry, in addition to the above, a marine radio and two in date parachute distress flares.

Owner onus

If an offence is committed by someone operating a PWC, and they can’t be identified, the owner will generally be liable unless the owner can establish who was responsible.

Speed limit restrictions

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

PWCs travelling more than 8 knots must not be driven:

- through an arch of a bridge (unless water skiing is specifically permitted);
- in or through a mooring area;
- in any water having a depth of less than 3 metres;
- within 15 metres of a vessel underway; and
- within 50 metres of:
  - a moored vessel;
  - a person in the water;
  - a jetty or wharf; or
  - a river bank or low water mark.

Water skiing

There must be a minimum crew of two on a PWC; the driver and an observer. The observer who must be at least 14 years of age, faces backwards to watch the person being towed, whilst the skipper 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 area they use. The rules for each area can be found in the boating guides on our website. Signs located at some launch ramps also provide this information.

Freestyling, wake and wave jumping

Freestyling is operating a PWC in a way that the skipper of another vessel would be unable to predict its course or speed in order to avoid a collision, this includes doughnuts, 180 degree turns, 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 wake jumping is prohibited within:

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

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