

Boating Guide

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Marine Safety



YOU'RE THE SKIPPER
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE

February 2025

SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	UNPROTECTED WATERS Beyond 400 metres from the shore.	
	Registrable Vessels	Non-registrable Vessels
Recreational Skipper's Ticket The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 6 horsepower must hold an RST.	✓	NOT REQUIRED
Lifejacket Carriage A lifejacket, as indicated in the table opposite, must be carried for every person on board.	Vessels smaller than 4.8m ✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE WORN	✓ Minimum Level 50S MUST BE WORN
	Vessels 4.8m and larger ✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE CARRIED	✓ Minimum Level 50S MUST BE CARRIED
Lifejacket Wearing As indicated in the table opposite.	Children older than one and younger than 12 ✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE WORN	✓ Minimum Level 50S MUST BE WORN
	Personal Water Craft ✓ Minimum Level 50S MUST BE WORN	
Distress Beacon (in-date) A GPS enabled 406 MHz EPIRB OR If worn by at least one person, a GPS enabled PLB. Distress beacons must be in-date and registered with AMSA.	✓	✓
Red and Orange Flares (in-date) At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange flares must be carried. OR Electronic Visual Distress Signal (EVDS) An electronic signalling device may be carried in lieu of flares IF a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn) is also carried.	✓	✓
Marine Radio A VHF or HF marine radio on any Registrable Vessel when operating from the shore in unprotected waters.	REQUIRED beyond 4 nautical miles RECOMMENDED within 4 nautical miles	RECOMMENDED
Recommended Additional Safety Equipment It is recommended an anchor and line, a fire extinguisher and a means of removing water be carried.	RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED

SERM-UPW-C-0225

Contact details

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

Police
Emergency: 000
Cocos Island: 9162 6600
Water Police: 9442 8600

Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Marine Rescue Western Australia
Emergency contact: VHF 16, 20 and 24
Marine Rescue Cocos Islands

Boating Weather Forecasts
Boating weather: 1300 815 916
Website: www.bom.gov.au

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development
Christmas Island: 9164 0000
Fishwatch: 1800 815 507
Website: www.dpird.wa.gov.au

Services provided by (Department of Transport) to the Indian Ocean Territories are fully funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Art's Territories Division.

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Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST)

The person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of **6 horsepower or less** is not required to hold a Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST).

A skipper in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor **greater than 6 horsepower** is required to hold a RST and carry it when boating

Age restrictions

A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat. RST holders over 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

Medical fitness

Skippers are required to alert us if they develop a medical condition that affects their ability to safely operate a recreational vessel. More information can be found on our website under Recreational Skipper's Ticket.

For further information, please visit our website or call 13 11 56.


Diving

Any boat with divers (not snorkellers) operating from it must always display signals by day or night to alert other boat users. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750 millimetres long and 600 millimetres wide.

Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must also display the International Code Flag "A".

The flag can be displayed from a buoy and must not be less than 300 millimetres in length and 200 millimetres in width.

The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.



Diver Below
Keep Clear 50 Metres

Vessels to keep clear

When approaching a place or another vessel displaying the International Code Flag "A" or the appropriate signal during the hours of darkness, you must —

- keep your vessel at least 50 metres clear of that place or vessel; or
- where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear of that place or vessel:
 - proceed at the slowest speed at which the vessel can be safely navigated; and
 - maintain a proper lookout for people in the water.


For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

Kiteboarding and windsurfing

All windsurfers and kiteboarders have a duty of care to ensure their activities are conducted with regard to the prevailing conditions and circumstances and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.

Kiteboarders and windsurfers are required to carry safety equipment, and beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) must be worn;
- a GPS enabled Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Personal Locator Beacon (PLB - must be worn);
- red and orange flares (in-date) - at least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange flares must be carried **OR** Electronic Visual Distress Signal (EVDS) - an electronic signalling device may be carried in lieu of flares **IF** a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn) is also carried.




Paddle craft

Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, wave skis, inflatables or similar paddle craft that are propelled by a person using a paddle must comply with WA marine laws.

When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) must be worn;
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn);
- flares or EVDS.




Personal water craft (PWC)

Every skipper of a PWC must hold an RST.

A skipper who is older than 14 but under 16 years of age with an RST can only operate a PWC during daylight hours at a maximum speed of 8 knots.

- Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket (minimum 50S) at all times.
- When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:
 - a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn).
 - flares or EVDS.
- Beyond 4 nautical miles from shore in unprotected waters a VHF marine radio must also be carried.

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.



LEGEND

5 knot speed restriction area

8 knot speed restriction area

Closed waters motorised vessels

Anchorage area

Kiteboarding and windsurfing prohibited

Port of Cocos Island boundary

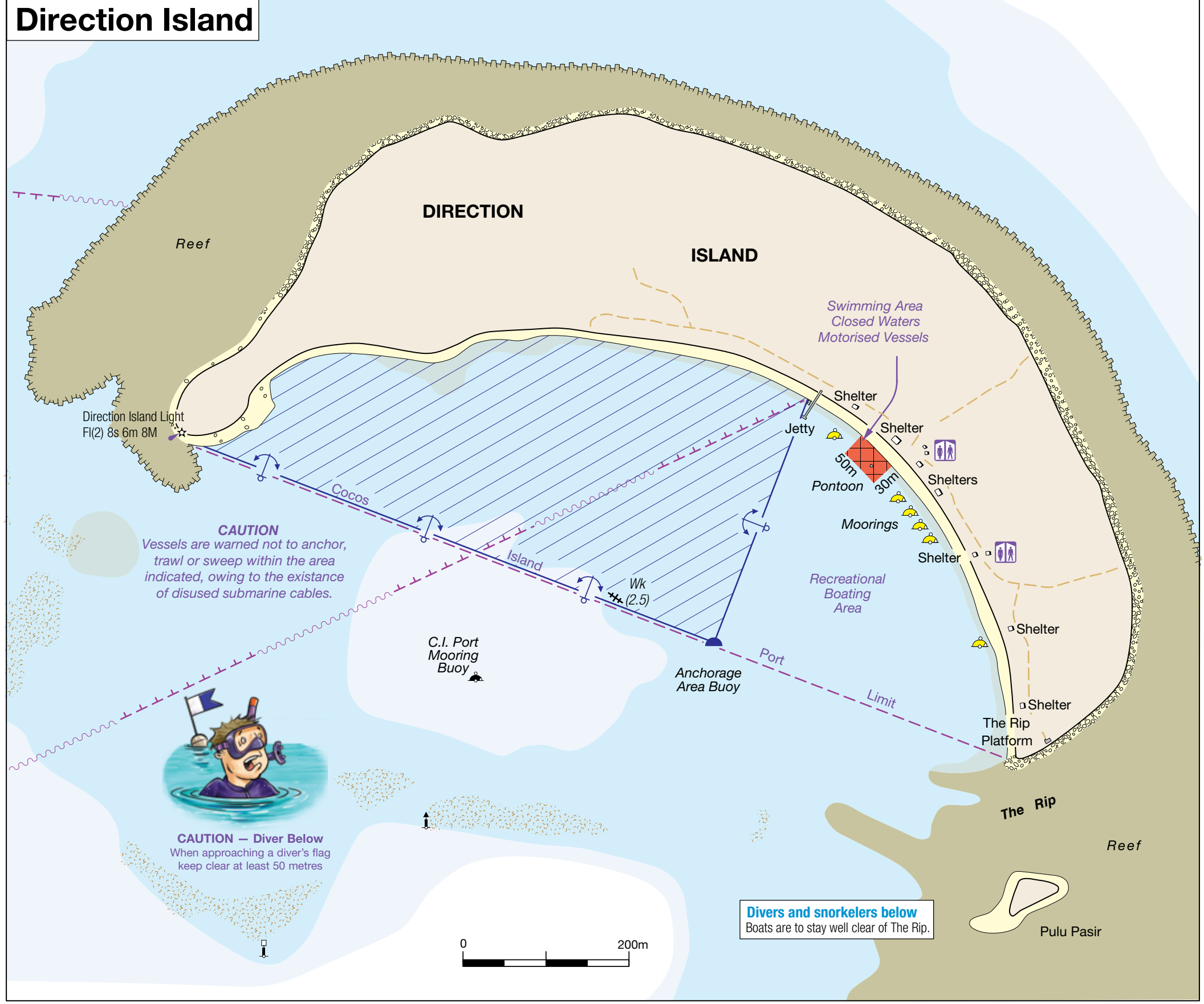
CAUTION Submarine cables

Port Authority mooring, mooring buoys

Boat ramp, public toilet

Parking, navigation light

Direction Island

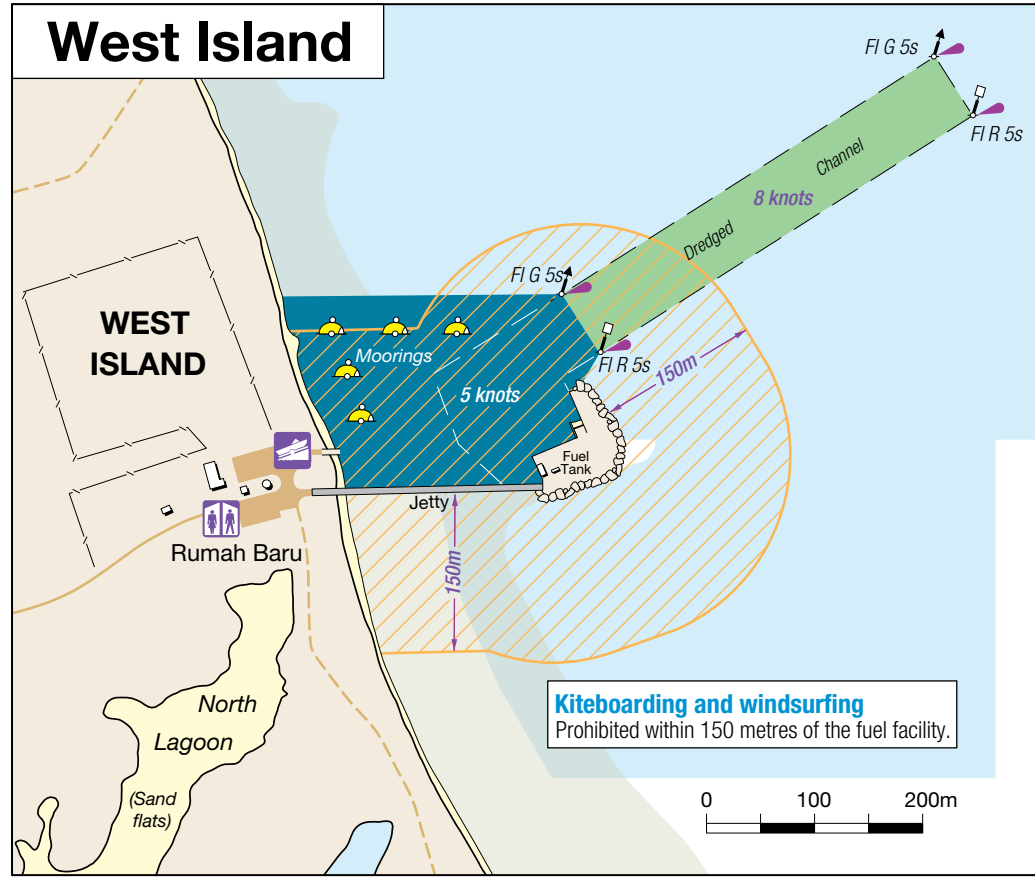


CAUTION
Vessels are warned not to anchor, trawl or sweep within the area indicated, owing to the existence of disused submarine cables.

CAUTION — Diver Below
When approaching a diver's flag keep clear at least 50 metres

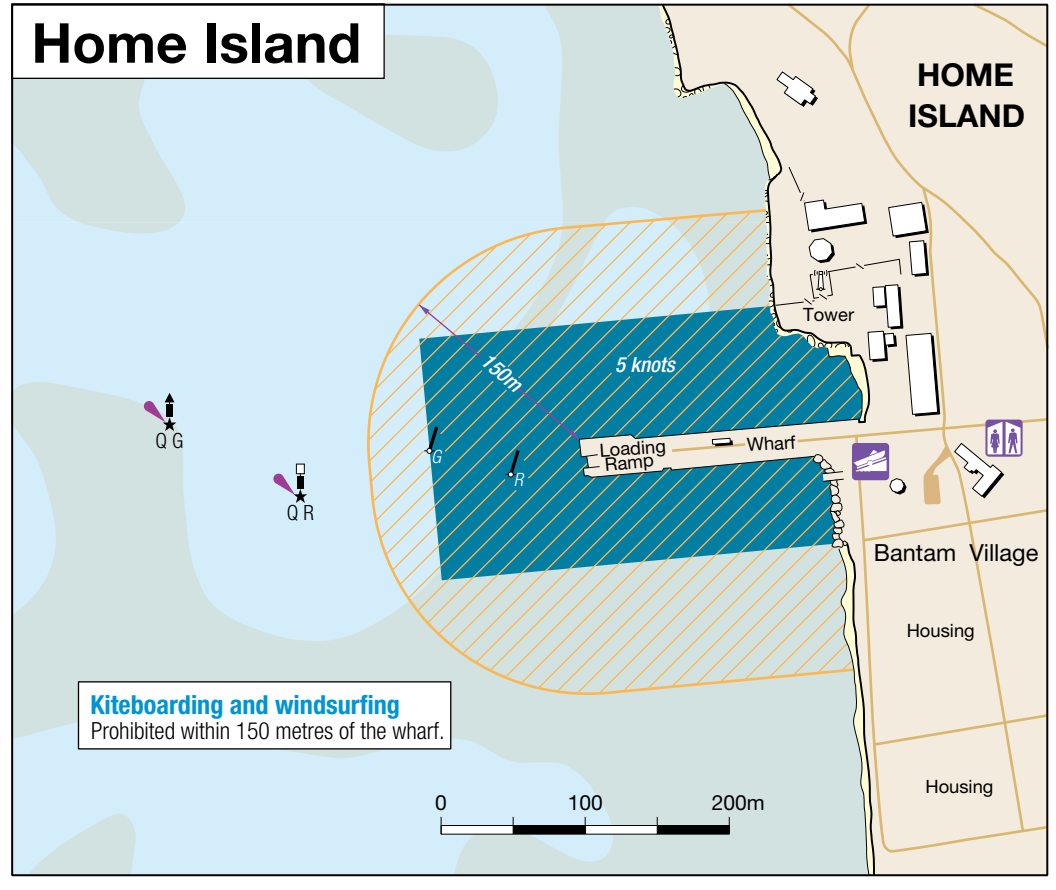
Divers and snorkelers below
Boats are to stay well clear of The Rip.

West Island



Kiteboarding and windsurfing
Prohibited within 150 metres of the fuel facility.

Home Island



Kiteboarding and windsurfing
Prohibited within 150 metres of the wharf.

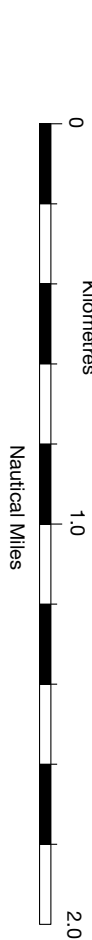
Cocos (Keeling) Islands



Not to be used for Navigation

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- LEGEND**
 - 5 knot speed restriction area
 - 8 knot speed restriction area
 - Port restricted zone
 - Closed waters motorised vessels
 - Kiteboarding and windsurfing restriction area
 - Kiteboarding and windsurfing prohibited
 - Anchorage area
 - Port of Cocos Island boundary
 - CAUTION Submarine cables
 - Port Authority moorings, navigation light
 - Boat ramp, over beach launching
 - Parking, public toilet

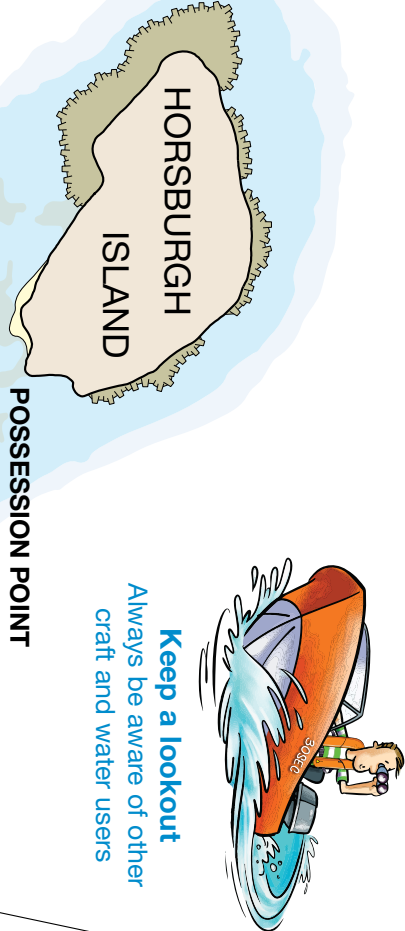


Basic rules of the waterways

- Vessel Overtaking**
Another
- Power Vessels Meeting Head On**
- Power Vessels Meeting**
- Power Meeting Sailing Vessel**
- Ships in Channels**
- Every overtaking vessel gives way (this includes sailing vessels)
- Each vessel alters course to starboard (ifn)
- Give way to vessels on your starboard (ifn)
- Power gives way to sail except when sailing vessel is overtaking
- All vessels must keep clear of ships using or approaching the marked navigation channel ships.



CAUTION — Diver Below
When approaching a diver's flag keep clear at least 50 metres



Keep a lookout
Always be aware of other craft and water users

DIRECTION ISLAND

See Inset

- Navigation marks**
- Lighthouse, major, minor light
 - Beacon, port, starboard
 - Safe water, isolated danger
 - Spir buoy, port, starboard
 - Pillar buoy, port, starboard
 - Moorings buoy, yachting buoy
 - Lead, front, rear

OCEAN

INDIAN

See Inset

HOME ISLAND

PORT RESTRICTED ZONE
In force when ship movements and offload operations underway



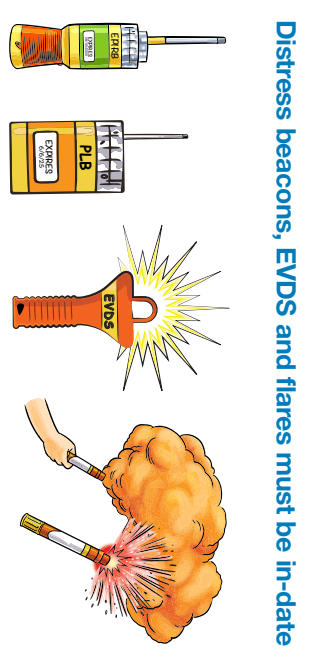
Fuel Off-load Point

See Inset

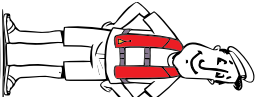
Kiteboarding restriction
Kiteboarders and windsurfers MUST obtain approval from the airport manager to operate within this area. Failure to gain approval may result in heavy fines.



Remember to LOG ON! every trip
with the local Marine Rescue group



Distress beacons, EVDs and flares must be in-date



Make a difference MAINTAIN AND WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET

