





BOATING TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

LOWER (estuarine)

WILLIAMS RIVER

The Boating Traffic Management Plan exists to protect the environment of the Williams River.

The conditions of the 'Plan' are enforceable under the NSW Maritime regulations.

Narrow waterways like the Williams River are valued and used for a diverse range of activities. Responsible navigation by vessel masters plays an integral part in protecting the rivers for future use.

Remember the following rules and safety messages and you'll ensure that everyone enjoys a great day out on the water.

- **Power turns are not permitted**
Power turns have the ability to create large wash. Vessels must slow down to ***idle speed*** to turn around.
- **No Ballast or wave enhancing devices**
Vessels must **not** be loaded with ballast water or solid ballast, or be fitted with any wave enhancing devices.
- **Minimise your Wash**
Consider other waterway users. Look behind your vessel and check if your wash could be ***annoying to others*** or ***damaging to the foreshore***.

- **Caution – Fallen skiers**
Turn your vessel at idle speed, return to your skier slowly and on the same course. You protect your skier from other vessels and avoid creating excessive wash.
- **Keep your distance**
When travelling at a speed of 10 knots or more keep a ***safe distance*** from people in the water, other vessels, the shore and any other objects in the water.
- **When navigating your vessel**
Always keep to the right, where possible stay as close to the middle of the river as possible. This helps your wash dissipate before it reaches the shore and helps reduce riverbank erosion.
- **Towing activities only permitted between sunrise and sunset.**

- **Drive in a straight line**
Each time you change the vessels direction you increase the effect the wash has on others and the foreshore.
- **Head on situation with another vessel**
Alter course to the right and pass the other vessel at a safe distance. Always make your intentions clear and in sufficient time.
- **Boat ramps**
Immediately move away from the ramp after launching your vessel to avoid obstructing others.
- **Noise Annoys**
Noise travels better over water than land. Before heading out consider time of day, location, wind direction, your vessel's engine and music.
- **Safety Equipment**
Ensure you are carrying all the required safety equipment on your vessel.

Refer to map over page:

Skiing can take place on the whole length of the river, from the edge of the 'No ski' zone just upstream of Raymond Terrace boat ramp to the start of the 4 knot zone at Seaham.

Wakeboarding and other slow tow activities (eg kneeboarding, learner skiers, aquaplaning, tubes) may take place on the top and bottom ends of the river but **not** in the 'No slow towing' area marked by buoys and signs.

For more information contact the Newcastle Office on 4962 8500, or visit our website www.maritime.nsw.gov.au.

Remember **CARE, COURTESY AND COMMONSENSE!**