

Frequently Asked Questions

Power boats on Lake Wivenhoe

Vessel and engine types

Is there a restriction on the type of motorised vessel that can be used?

Vessels must only use low emission outboards/engines. This limits motors to four strokes or direct fuel-injected two strokes.

All powered watercraft using the lake must carry current registration if classed as registrable by Queensland Transport (i.e. all vessels powered by a motor of greater than four horsepower are registrable).

Water skiing, jet skiing, wake boarding and tubing are not permitted on Lake Wivenhoe. Houseboats and overnight stays on the water are not permitted.

How do I know if my two stroke motor is direct fuel-injected and low emission?

Consult with the motor manufacturer. As a general rule, motors that are direct fuel injected will not have carburettors and these motors will be low emission.

Is there a restriction on engine size?

Although there is no restriction on engine size, all vessels must not travel at a speed greater than six knots.

Why can't I use my old two stroke motor?

Wivenhoe is one of the main drinking water supply dams for South East Queensland. By restricting the motors to low emission engines – four strokes or direct fuel-injection two strokes – we are minimising the likelihood of pollution to the water. Older two stroke motors are proven high pollutant motors.

Speed limits

How fast is six knots?

Six knots is approximately 12 kilometres per hour. If your boat is 'on the plane', you will be travelling at over six knots.

Why are boats only allowed to travel at up to six knots?

Lake Wivenhoe caters for more passive recreational pursuits. Lakes Somerset and Atkinson are both closely located to Wivenhoe and cater for the more high speed watercraft and activities, such as waterskiing, jet skiing and tubing. The community feedback received during the recreation review supported this mix of activity and experience.

Location and access

Where can I launch my motorised vessel?

For your safety and to protect the shore around the lake, vessels are only to be launched and retrieved from designated launch points. The public boat ramps are located at Hamon Cove, Logan Inlet and Billies Bay.

How big is Lake Wivenhoe, and could I travel from one end to the other in a day?

Lake Wivenhoe is the second largest lake in Queensland, and is more than 50 kilometres in length. Launching from Logan Inlet and travelling at six knots to the upper reaches and back would be about an eight hour round trip.

Are there any places on the lake that that I can't go?

Yes. For operational reasons, you can not take your vessel approximately three kilometres upstream of the dam wall. Access is also prohibited on land that is not part of a designated recreation area. This is private property and accessing this property would be considered trespass.

Compliance and safety

At Lake Somerset, I regularly get stopped by Rangers or Police checking my safety gear. Is Wivenhoe the same, and do I have to have the same safety gear aboard?

The laws on all inland waterways are the same and set by Maritime Safety Queensland.

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If your vessel is registered then you are required to carry the full complement of safety gear. Details can be found on the MSQ website (www.msq.qld.gov.au). Rangers and Police will be actively patrolling Lake Wivenhoe.

Are there any remote camp sites or mooring points where I can stay overnight?

Overnight stays on the water are not permitted and camping is only permitted in the designated camping grounds at Lumley Hill and Captain Logan Camp. All vessels must be launched from the boat ramps at the day use areas at Logan Inlet, Hamon Cove or Billies Bay. There are stop off points at McKeys Hill to the north-east of the lake and McGraths Bay in the south-west. The stop off points are only accessible by water. Each rest area has a picnic table, rubbish bin and toilet for the convenience of visitors. Signage and a buoy on the water have been installed.

What do I do if I break down or run out of fuel when I am a long way from the boat ramp?

The operator of the vessel is responsible for the safety of the vessel and all passengers, and should plan for such events before launching. Please be aware that there may be areas of the lake that have little or no mobile phone coverage.

Genuine emergencies should be reported to Emergency Services by dialling 000 (or 112 from mobile phones). Your smart-phone may be able to access GPS to provide location details to assist in recovery.

Why do I need a boating permit?

You only need a boat permit if your vessel is required to be registered with the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads and/or would normally be transported on a trailer, due to the size of the craft. Kayaks, canoes and similar small craft do not normally require a permit.

What do I do if I see someone going more than six knots?

Most importantly, try to get the registration of the vessel involved and/or take a photograph. If you are able to record this, please report it to Rangers on site or email recreation@seqwater.com.au or phone 1300 SEQWATER. Never take matters into your own hands.

Waterskiing and fishing

Where can I go waterskiing and jet skiing?

Waterskiing, jet skiing, wakeboarding and tubing are not permitted on Lake Wivenhoe. You can enjoy these activities at Lake Atkinson and Lake Somerset. Lake Atkinson is about a 15 minute drive west of Lake Wivenhoe, and Lake Somerset is located less than an hour to the north.

Can I fish on the lake?

Fishing is permitted from the shore, as well as from vessels. A fishing permit is required at both Lake Wivenhoe and Lake Somerset. Shore fishing is only permitted from designated recreation areas. Other areas around the lake are private property.

Fisheries Queensland controls the fishing rules and regulations in Queensland and administers the Stocked Impoundment Scheme (SIPS). To purchase a SIPS permit or for a list of outlets, call 13 25 23 or visit www.daf.qld.gov.au.

Plan your visit and play it safe

While our rangers regularly patrol our recreation sites, they can't be everywhere to help you. Before you visit, make sure you check our website for safety tips and the latest recreation and safety notices, wear a life jacket when on the water and remember to play it safe at our dams, lakes and parks.