Visit Lake Wivenhoe

What to do at Lake Wivenhoe

Lake Wivenhoe is the largest lake in South East Queensland and provides more than half of the region’s drinking water. Seqwater is one of the few bulk water providers in Australia that manages open catchments, allowing the community to enjoy recreational activities on the dams and lakes that supply our drinking water. The dam and recreation facilities are open to the public seven days a week, from 5:30am to 6:30pm (September – April) and 6:00am to 5:30pm (May – August).

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters around Lake Wivenhoe and Elders both past and present.

At Lake Wivenhoe you can enjoy:

- BBQs and picnics
- playgrounds
- camping (at private campgrounds)
- multi-use trails - walking, running, mountain biking and horse riding
- swimming, scuba diving, or snorkelling (in the designated swimming areas at Logan’s Inlet and Billies Bay)
- canoeing, kayaking and rowing
- sailing
- fishing (permit required)
- motorised boats (restrictions on engine type and speed limit apply).

Water skiing, jet skiing, wakeboarding and tubing are not permitted on Lake Wivenhoe. These activities are available at nearby Lake Somerset.

Picnicking and BBQs

You can enjoy a picnic at the following locations:

- Hamon Cove
- Logan’s Inlet
- Cormorant Bay
- O’Shea’s Crossing
- Spillway Lookout
- Billies Bay/Hays Landing.

All areas have great facilities including picnic tables, shelters and free BBQs.

Playgrounds

Keep the kids amused with the playgrounds at:

- Logan’s Inlet
- Cormorant Bay.

Boating

Boating is a very popular activity at Lake Wivenhoe. Non-motorised and restricted motorised water craft are permitted on the lake. Vessels must be low-emission outboards/engines. This limits motors to four strokes or direct fuel-injected two strokes. Vessels are not to exceed six knots. If your vessel is on the plane, you are going too fast!

For your safety and to protect the riparian areas around the lake, boats and vessels are only to be operated from designated launch points. Overnight stays on the water are not permitted.

All activities on Seqwater lakes are covered by the Boating Regulations set by Maritime Safety Queensland (msq.qld.gov.au). Please keep a safe distance from swimmers and paddlers.

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Please be courteous to our neighbours. Much of the land surrounding the lake is private property. Do not launch, retrieve or beach on land around the lake, other than at signed, designated recreation areas.

Ramps and launch points

Paddle craft can be launched from:

- Hamon Cove
- Logan’s Inlet
- O’Shea’s Crossing
- Branch Creek
- Atkinson’s Crossing via the Spillway Lookout (access to the Brisbane River below Lake Wivenhoe)
- Billies Bay/Hays Landing.

Motorised boats must only be launched from the boat ramps at Hamon Cove, Billies Bay and Logan’s Inlet.

Stop off points

There are two stop off points for boats and paddlecraft. The stop off points are only accessible from the water. They are located at McKay’s Hill, to the north-east of the lake, and McGraths Bay in the south-west. Each rest area has a picnic table, rubbish bin and toilet.

Fishing

Shore line fishing is allowed at:

- Branch Creek
- Hamon Cove
- Logan’s Inlet
- Cormorant Bay
- Lake Wivenhoe Information Centre
- Atkinson’s Crossing via the Spillway Lookout
- Billies Bay/Hays Landing.

Fishing from vessels is also permitted on the lake. Please do not access private property around the lake to fish. The lake is home to an abundance of wildlife.

Please ensure all rubbish, including fishing lines and hooks, are discarded appropriately in bins or taken with you for disposal. There have been numerous incidents where wildlife have ingested or become entangled in discarded fishing material.

Fishing permits

A fishing permit is required at Lake Wivenhoe. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries controls the fishing rules and regulations in Queensland and administers the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (SIPS).

Please visit df.qld.gov.au to purchase a SIPS permit or for a list of outlets that sell permits. These permits must be purchased before fishing on the lake.

Swimming

There is a designated swimming area located at Logan’s Inlet and Billies Bay. For your safety, please swim only in the designated area and remember there are no lifeguards on duty.

Tracks and trails

There is a 16-kilometre multi-use trail network at Wivenhoe Hill, offering spectacular views of the lake. These trails are suitable for mountain bike riders, horse riders, walkers and trail runners.

Four tracks are available, ranging in distance from 3km to 5km. The trails have been rated class 3 under the Australian Walking Trail Standard, requiring a reasonable level of fitness.

Camping

There is a campground near Logan’s Inlet catering for caravans, camper trailers and tents. The site is run by private operators. For all enquiries and bookings please contact the campground directly.

Blue-green algae and recreation

Cyanobacteria (commonly known as blue-green algae) are naturally occurring bacteria that live in lakes and waterways. Most of the time algae exist in low numbers, however, under certain conditions algae can grow rapidly, called an algal bloom, and sometimes produce toxins that can harm your health if you swim, boat or fish in algae-affected lakes.

You can check blue-green algae levels on our website at seqwater.com.au/recreation/blue-green-algae-and-recreation.

Download our public safety app

Our public safety app combines dam release notifications, dam levels information, recreation, safety and lake closure updates and weather alerts. Search ‘Seqwater’ on the App Store or Google Play.