

Information sheet

Marine Management

Information for applicants - standard tourism and vessel charter permit

This information sheet is relevant to persons proposing to apply for a standard tourism and vessel charter permit for the Great Sandy or Moreton Bay marine parks.

Overview

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships have introduced the new standard tourism and vessel charter permit (STVC) for access to the Moreton Bay or Great Sandy marine parks (the Marine Parks), which includes the following permissions subject to certain conditions:

- conducting a tourism program; and
- conducting a vessel charter operation.

The STVC is a fully standardised permit, meaning a risk assessment has been conducted for all of the permitted activities that have been determined as low risk. In addition, standard conditions have been developed to protect the marine parks from potential impacts. This streamlines the application process for new operators and operators conducting low risk activities in the marine parks.

Applicants should carefully read the example standard tourism and vessel charter permit (which can be downloaded at www.qld.gov.au) to understand the conditions and check that all planned activities are allowed. In addition, applicants must meet certain requirements as detailed in the Eligibility and Applicant Suitability sections of this information sheet.

Key features of this permit

Some of the key features of the STVC include reduced application processing timeframes, a longer permit term, a wide range of access to most areas of the marine parks, a broad range of activities and no restriction on the number of vessels that may be used.

Permit terms

The standard tourism and vessel charter permit is offered for a term of six years.

Permitted vessels

There is no restriction on the number of vessels that may be used under this permit provided the following conditions are met:

- Vessels must not exceed 50 metres in overall length;
- Vessels are not personal water craft or jet propelled craft;
- Vessels are not amphibious i.e. have wheels and are capable of being driven on land;
- Vessels are not managed vessels i.e. hovercraft, wing-in-ground effect, hydrofoils, air-boats.

Information for applicants - standard tourism and vessel charter permit

Permitted capacity

There is no limit on the total number of passengers, across all vessels, under the standard tourism and vessel charter permit, however some capacity limits apply at certain sites. Details are provided in Table 1 below.

Permitted zones and locations

A STVC permit gives the holder access to all zones and locations of the Great Sandy or Moreton Bay marine parks 365 days a year other than limitations restricted by permit condition (see Table 1 below and sample standard permit). This permit does not authorise the conduct of a tourism program or commercial activity in a protected area such as Woody Island or Peel Island National Parks or recreation area such as Fraser Island or Moreton Island. A separate application/permit is required to access these areas. Visit www.business.qld.gov.au

Table 1. Summary of access restrictions for tourism and vessel charter operators in Great Sandy and Moreton Bay marine parks. Sites marked with * overlap with recreation areas; sites marked with ** are adjacent to a national park or conservation park or ***both. Additional approvals apply.

Site name	Access restriction by permit condition							
	No access	No Diving	No anchoring	No motorised water sports ¹	No kite surfing ²	No Beach access at any time	Max 20 pax unless operating to a mooring, jetty or pontoon	No beach access public holidays only
Great Sandy Marine Park								
Wolf Rock Grey Nurse Shark Area		X						
Ex-HMAS Tobruk ³	X							
Mon Repos Area**	X							
Dr Mays Island	X ⁴				X			
Woody Island**						X		
Little Woody Island**						X		
Duck Island**						X		
Woongarra Coast, Hervey Bay and Woody Island no anchoring areas			X					
All Marine National Park Zones and Go Slow Areas				X	X			
Fraser Island World Heritage Area***				X				

¹ See motorised water sports condition for all limitations on conduct of motorised water sports.

² See kite surfing condition for all limitation on the conduct of kite surfing.

³ A commercial activity agreement is required to access the Ex-HMAS Tobruk Restricted access area.

⁴ Access to Dr Mays Island is not permitted between 1 September – 30 April.

Information for applicants - standard tourism and vessel charter permit

Site name	Access restriction by permit condition							
	No access	No Diving	No anchoring	No motorised water sports ⁵	No kite surfing ⁶	No Beach access at any time	Max 20 pax unless operating to a mooring, jetty or pontoon	No beach access public holidays only
Moreton Bay Marine Park								
Flat Rock Grey Nurse Shark Area		X						
Cherubs Cave Grey Nurse Shark Area		X						
Henderson's Rock Grey Nurse Shark Area		X						
Tangalooma Wrecks**	X							
Caloundra (Golden Beach, Kings Beach, Bulcock Beach)				X	X	X		
Horseshoe Bay, South Stradbroke Island			X	X	X		X	X
Lucinda Bay, Moreton Island***				X	X		X	X
Big & Little Sandhills, Moreton Island***				X	X		X	X
Horseshoe Bay, Peel Island**				X	X		X	X
Tipplers Passage**				X	X		X	X

⁵ See motorised water sports condition for all limitations on conduct of motorised water sports

⁶ See kite surfing condition for all limitations on the conduct of kite surfing

Information for applicants - standard tourism and vessel charter permit

For maps showing the Areas referred to in Table 1 please see Attachments of the sample permit or visit:

- Moreton Bay and Great Sandy zoning plans—www.legislation.qld.gov.au
- Moreton Bay user guide (includes detailed zoning and designated area maps)— refer to the [Department of Environment and Science website](#)
- Great Sandy Marine Park visitor guide (includes detailed zoning and designated area maps)— refer to the [Department of Environment and Science website](#)

Bookings are not required to access sites or to use public moorings installed at Flinders Reef or Flat Rock in the Moreton Bay Marine Park. Regulatory notices under the *Marine Parks Act 2004* limit access to public moorings installed at Flinders Reef for a maximum of two hours. There are vessel size limits defined by classes of public moorings as follows –

Table 2. Mooring class and vessel sizes

Mooring class	Maximum boat length (metres)		Wind speed
	Mono-hull	Multi- hull	
A	10	9	24
B	20	18	24
C	25	22	34

Tourist program

A tourist program is a commercial activity that provides transport, accommodation or services to people who are visiting the marine parks mainly for recreation and enjoyment. Tourists may be local residents, from within Australia or international visitors.

Activities permitted under the standard tourism and vessel charter permit include:

- guided tours;
- vending (excluding beach vending);
- fish feeding (Moreton Bay Marine Park only);
- fishing;
- trolling;
- motorised water sports;
- non-motorised water sports;
- equipment hire;
- swimming;
- snorkelling;
- diving (including shore based and surface supplied air diving); and
- vessel charter (skippered) and vessel charter (hire).

Activities NOT permitted under the standard tourism and vessel charter permit include (but are not limited to):

Information for applicants - standard tourism and vessel charter permit

- Commercial whale watching;
- Personal watercraft or jet ski tours;
- Tours involving managed vessels or aircraft, including unmanned aerial vehicles;
- Fly board jet packs;
- Conduct of a special activity in a special activity area e.g. diving in a Moreton Bay artificial reef area;
- Marine mammal watching;
- Tourism programs involving vehicles.
- Access to Ex-HMAS Tobruk;
- Dolphin feeding;
- Bringing animals into the marine park e.g. horses and camels;
- Fish feeding in the Great Sandy Marine Park;
- Education programs;
- Beach based activities i.e. vending, display, storage or hire of vessels or equipment.

This list is not exhaustive. If an activity is not identified as being included in the STVC permit then it is likely to be excluded. The standard tourism and vessel charter permit allows motorised and non-motorised water sports activities involving the use of the motorised and non-motorised equipment specified in Table 3.

Table 3. *Non-motorised and motorised equipment specifically permitted under the tourist program*

Non-motorised equipment	Motorised equipment (and non-motorised equipment used in conjunction with a vessel)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayak, canoe, surf ski, raft, pedal craft and other sit-on-top craft • Stand-up paddleboard • Kitesurfer • Windsurfer • Surfboard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic devices (for example seabobs) • Inflatable or boom net (towed behind vessel) • Water-ski or wakeboard (towed behind vessel) • Parasail or parakite (towed behind vessel).

Vessel charter operation

A vessel charter operation involves a business activity that allows a company to charge a fee for the hire and/or charter of their vessel to non-tourists.

Activities allowable under this standard permit include provision of transport, accommodation and services to both tourists and non-tourists who are using the vessel for activities including the conduct of works, research and recreation. This may include vessel support for workers, researchers or film crews, or the transport of persons, goods and equipment within the Marine Parks.

Vessel charter (hire) includes hire of vessels (motorised and non-motorised) from a location within or outside of the marine park excluding use of a beach in the marine park to store, display or hire vessels and equipment.

Examples

Vessel charter (skipped) —provision of a vessel with skipper and crew to support a commercial filming activity. The film crew may require a separate permission unless considered a low impact media activity.

Vessel charter (hire) —hire of houseboats without skipper and crew.

Eligibility

This standard tourism and vessel charter permit is available to applicants, including current permit holders, whose proposed activities meet the defined parameters spelled out in this Information Sheet. Applicants are responsible for reading the sample standard tourism and vessel charter permit for the relevant marine park to ensure its suitability.

Vessel registration details should be provided when applying for a standard permit. Please be advised that the Permit Holder must hold public liability insurance. The standard level of cover required for all authorised activities is \$20 million.

Applicant Suitability

Any applicant for this permit must make a lawful declaration relating to their suitability to hold this permission. The following elements are included in the declaration:

- The applicant is able to comply with the conditions on the standard tourism and vessel charter permit, including the insurance and indemnity conditions.
- The applicant or any associated person has not been convicted of an offence within three years prior to the date of this application against legislation that protects the marine park, wildlife, recreation and protected areas.
- The applicant or any associated person has not had a Marine Parks permit or relevant authority suspended, cancelled or revoked in the past three years.
- The applicant does not currently have any charge, collected amount or penalty amount that is overdue; or any late payment penalty amount that is payable or any bond amount that is outstanding under a current Marine Parks permission (whether the permission is valid or not).
- There are no other matters which may be relevant to this application.
- If this application is being made on behalf of a body corporate — the body corporate is not under external administration.

Information for applicants - standard tourism and vessel charter permit

Note: for body corporates — an applicant includes the body corporate, its executive officers, its parent body, and the parent body's executive officers.

If the applicant cannot make the declaration they may still apply for a Marine Parks permit but the application will be assessed under a different assessment process and longer timeframes will apply.

How to apply

To apply for a standard tourism and vessel charter permit you can download the application form at www.qld.gov.au

Human Rights Act 2019 compatibility

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the [Human Rights Act 2019](#), the department has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights. When acting or making a decision under this policy, officers must comply with that obligation (refer to [Comply with Human Rights Act](#)).

Disclaimer

While this document has been prepared with care, it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Department of Environment and Science should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

Approved by

Ben Klaassen

Signature

29 April 2019

Date

Deputy Director General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and
Partnerships and Partnerships

Enquiries:

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and
Partnerships
Assessments and Approvals
Ph. (07) 3199 7514
Email parkaccess@des.qld.gov.au