

Boating in NSW: what you can do under the COVID-19 restrictions

With COVID-19 rules including stay at home orders in place across NSW, there are certain implications for maritime activity depending on where you live. Please ensure you stay up to date with the latest rules at nsw.gov.au. Remember, physical distancing, mask-wearing and gathering rules apply at all times - including at the boat ramp and on your boat.

Exercise and recreation

For those living in NSW (except those in LGAs of concern):

- ✔ You can undertake passive craft water sports as exercise, such as sailing, jet-skiing, water skiing, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, etc.
- ✔ You can powerboat as recreation, as long as you observe the rules around social gathering, physical distancing and mask-wearing
- ✔ Boating is limited to two people or more if all from the same household
- ✔ Whilst boating you must be within your LGA or no further than 5km from your residence
- ✔ Coastal waters are included, so you may be up to 3 nautical miles off the coast, adjacent to your LGA area.

Additional rules apply for those living in LGAs of concern:

- ✔ You may exercise within 5km of your residence for up to one hour a day, in groups of no more than 2 people (unless they are members of your household)
- ✔ Fishing from a vessel is allowed as it is considered to be "exercise"
- ✘ General boating and powerboating are considered recreation and are not allowed in LGAs of concern.

Maintaining and servicing your vessel

The following activities are considered reasonable excuses to leave your home to ensure the safety of a vessel or undertaking a legal obligation and are not limited to your LGA:

- ✔ Complete urgent repairs or urgent maintenance to a vessel at a marina or mooring
- ✔ Taking a vessel directly to a marina or boat shed for urgent repairs
- ✔ Picking up a vessel from a marina or boat shed after having urgent repairs and returning the vessel directly back to its marina or mooring
- ✔ Moving a vessel between marinas or moorings for relocation purposes if a commercial agreement has ended and the vessel must be moved
- ✔ Delivery of a vessel or relocation of a vessel after the purchase of a vessel
- ✘ Note that non-urgent repairs and maintenance to your vessel is not a reasonable excuse.

Physical distancing and gathering rules are to be observed at all times during any of the above activities.

Obtaining your boat licence

While trainers and educators are allowed to operate, applicants and trainees can only gather in groups of two, if not from the same household, and must stay within their LGA or no more than 5km from their home.

Virtual training via an online platform is allowed, but practical training of more than two people outside their own LGA is likely to be impractical and is not recommended.

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For the latest information about COVID-19 visit nsw.gov.au

