

Jet Ski Users

(Personal water craft)

Before heading out on a jet ski make sure you are up to speed on all the rules and regulations.

Jet skis are considered 'power-driven vessels' by law, so the same rules apply to both your jet ski as other power-driven vessels.

Anyone operating your jet ski is considered to be the skipper, so it's their responsibility to know the rules and make sure everyone stays safe.

The easiest way to make sure you know the rules is to complete a safe boating course and familiarise yourself with the local rules (grab yourself a copy of the Navigation Safety Bylaw from our website: waikatoregion.govt.nz/navigation-safety-bylaw.)



Know the rules

All jet skis using Waikato waterways must be registered.

You must be 15 years of age or older to operate a jet ski by yourself. Anyone younger than 15 must be accompanied by someone 15 years or age or older who can reach the controls.

Always wear a lifejacket

Wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device at all times. The lifejacket must be an appropriate size and securely fastened.

Reduce your speed

Keep to 5 knots or less within 50m of people and other vessels and 200m of any vessel flying a dive flag.

You should not exceed 5 knots within 30m of the shore in inland waters and within 200m of the shore in coastal waters.



5 knots is a fast walking pace or 9.25km per hour.

Always carry two forms of waterproof communication

Cellphone in a waterproof bag, VHF radio, flare or personal locator beacon.

It takes three to ski!

If you are using your jet ski for towing activities, you must:

- have an observer on board, who is 10 years of age or older
- travel in an anti-clockwise direction
- keep your wake to a minimum if it could affect other boats, swimmers and structures
- not tow between sunset and sunrise.

Jet ski zones

There are **designated jet ski zones** in the Waikato region (refer to specific schedules in the navigation safety bylaw):

- **Mōkau**
- **Awakino** (from the river mouth to the 5 knot zone)
- **Kāwhia** (an area on the northern side of the harbour entrance)
- **Tairua** (there are three PWC zones)
- **Tuakau** (an area from the Tuakau Bridge upstream to the Smeed Road quarry).

There are also **jet ski prohibited or restricted zones** in the Waikato region. These zones include:

- **Hamilton City** (Pukete footbridge upstream to Cobham Drive bridge)
- **Lake Karapiro** (includes all water within zones 1 and 2)
- **Lake Puketirini** (all water)
- **Lake Kainui** (all water).

Outside these zones, jet skis can be operated as any other powered craft on water within the Waikato region.

Before you go

Keep in touch

Report your trip. Always let someone know where you are going and when you will be back.

Check the weather forecast

New Zealand's weather can be highly unpredictable. Check the local marine weather forecast before you go and expect both weather and sea state changes.

Avoid alcohol

Safe boating and alcohol do not mix. Things can change quickly on the water. You need to stay alert and aware.

MarineMate

If you love exploring new waterways or use your jet ski in multiple regions, MarineMate is a handy tool to carry with you.

MarineMate is a smartphone app that allows you to access information on tide times, boat ramp locations, VHF channels, and local boating rules for the whole country, all at the palm of your hand.



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