

Burrum River Proposed Speed Changes

QUESTION & ANSWERS

New restrictions proposed for Burrum River Weir 1

The Fraser Coast Regional Council Planning and Environmental Services team is currently investigating options for the management of boat traffic on Burrum Weir 1.

Q. Isn't the use of the Burrum River regulated by Marine Safety Queensland (MSQ), not Council?

A. In part, yes. However, MSQ have limited resources to police every river in Queensland, and have indicated that if Council, which is responsible for drinking water quality, could also take action to ensure the safety of water users, reduce the turbidity of the water and reduce erosion of the banks, this would help MSQ to undertake compliance activities.

Q. Are there other considerations for watercraft in this section of the Burrum River?

A. Yes. Use of the recreation area where the boat ramp is located is problematic in other ways including illegal camping, lack of toilets, litter, and general safety of swimmers in close proximity to the weir wall (barrage) during overflow events. Fraser Coast Regional Council would like to explore restricting activities, rather than restricting watercraft or recreational use of the river entirely, which is why we are currently considering other control measures.



Q. Have any injuries occurred on this stretch of the Burrum River?

A. Not to date. Rather than waiting until there is an accident or life-threatening injury, Council wishes to implement safety measures which will protect other water-craft users, and swimmers, as well as boat-users from potential hazards such as submerged stumps, slower watercraft, and proximity to structures on the banks which could be dangerous if approached at speed.



Q. How does this section of the river affect our drinking water? Isn't our catchment in Lenthalls Dam?

A. This part of the river forms part of our drinking water catchment and contains our water off-take point just above the barrage wall (approximately 150m from the boat ramp and reserve).

The river is accessed recreationally by a range of watercraft including motorboats, jet skis, kayaks and paddleboards.



Q. Why are you taking away the only part of the Burrum River where boaties can really enjoy themselves?

A. Very few areas of this part of the river are currently able to be legally navigated at 40 knot speeds, due to 'proximity to shore' restrictions (60m for personal watercraft) or 'proximity to built structure' restrictions (30m for boats, 60m for personal watercraft).

Council is happy to work with MSQ to create a safe watercraft environment for recreational users on our drinking water catchments.

