

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WATER CRAFT ON THE BRISBANE RIVER

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) have developed a Code of Conduct for safe on-water conduct on the Brisbane River. The code clearly define safety responsibilities for all users of the river and is available here http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/~media/cf32ca69-c765-46bd-ae72-5c022aaa54ec/brisbane_river_code_conduct.pdf

Like all river users, West End Canoe Club members need to abide by the code to ensure everyone's safety whilst training, racing and just enjoying a nice paddle on the river. A summary of the key points of the code is provided below:

PASSIVE CRAFT (KAYAKS AND ROWERS)

- **Lighting:** kayaks are to have a 360 degree white flashing light visible for 2 nautical miles in low light conditions.
- **High visibility** shirts are to be worn at all time whilst kayaking (this is a club rule).
- **Where we can and can't paddle:** Passive vessels, where possible are required to paddle in the river bank thirds of the river on the starboard side of the river in the direction of travel. The centre third of the river is for Powered Vessels. The exception to this is when crossing the river.
- **Crossing the river:** when crossing the river we are to proceed to the opposite side via the shortest possible route and at a place where we can be seen from at least 500m. When travelling upstream the best place to cross is approximately 250m beyond the West End Ferry Terminal.
- **Kayaks need to be serviceable and safe** and if you are not a confident swimmer you should wear a buoyancy vest.
- **Gangways and pontoons:** according to the code we are not to paddle under gangways whilst a City Cat is approaching, docked or departing.

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATION VESSELS (CITY CATS, ROWER'S TINNIES ETC...)

In addition to the usual rules of the sea a vessel in the river must:

- Operate at a safe speed.
- Not cause a wash that creates a marine incident. A marine incident includes the flooding of a passive craft (see paragraph 7 for guidance on marine incident).

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **City Cat docking:**
 - If a passive vessel (kayak or rower) is within 100m of a City Cat Ferry terminal the City Cat must wait until the passive vessel has left the 100m exclusion zone (marked with yellow buoys)
 - Likewise, if a commercial vessel is within the 100m exclusion zone from a City Cat Ferry Terminal an approaching passive vessel must stop and wait outside the exclusion until the City Cat has left.
- **Incident reporting**
 - For incidents involving rowers and their tinnies a [Marine Incident Reporting](#) Form should be sent to Rowing Queensland safety@rowingqld.asn.au (07) 3842 1200 and a copy sent to MSQ within 48 hours of the incident occurring. A correct incident reporting form and pen is available from the WECC club house.
 - For incidents involving City Cats and other vessels an incident reporting form should be sent to MSQ shipping inspector by fax on (07) 3860 3571 or call them on (07) 3860 3500.