

QLD Waterway Code of Conduct

From: Marine Safety Queensland

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The safe operation of passive craft on Queensland's waterways is a priority for state and local government authorities, commercial operators and sport and recreational organisations. This code of conduct has been adopted to provide guidance on several aspects of the safe on-water conduct of passive craft including general rules of the river, interacting with other vessels, adapting to environmental factors, participant safety and incident reporting.

The code of conduct is written for the benefit of all commercial and recreational users of the Brisbane River. The code of conduct is available to all river users on Maritime Safety Queensland, Rowing Queensland and Brisbane City Council websites.

Important rules for paddlers to remember when paddling on QLD waterways are:

- A vessel should always be navigated on the starboard side (right side in the direction of travel) of the river.
- Passive recreational craft should stay in the outer thirds of the river when on the water.
- All craft should pass paddlers on **their** left.
- **Lighting**

Passive recreational craft should take particular care when in low light conditions, such as before and just after sunrise and just before and after sunset. All recreational vessels including passive craft on the water at any time between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with a lighting device for signalling to attract attention. Examples of lighting devices – torches, lanterns, fluorescent lights and cyalume sticks.

Also, the vessel must display a flashing white all-round light visible for two nautical miles if the vessel is used for training or competition and is not powered but is propelled by using oars or paddles and is operated on the Brisbane River.

- **Crossing the river**

When crossing a river, all vessels are to proceed to the opposite side via the shortest possible route and are to proceed with extreme caution whilst maintaining a proper lookout.

Individuals and crews should not attempt to cross a river in areas of poor visibility.