

Moreton Bay Research Station Boating and Vehicle Operations

1. Scope

The Boating and Vehicle Operations Program applies to any vehicles and boats that are:

- University owned, leased, hired, or by any other means under the direct control of the University of Queensland that are accessing Stradbroke Island;
- Parked on the MBRS site or near the MBRS site by users of the facility (excluding visitors to the visitor's centre; and
- Being used for official University of Queensland business including transportation of users and materials (excluding contract owner-driver boats or vehicles).

2. Objectives

- Ensure vehicles are used in a responsible and legal manner;
- Protect sensitive areas from damage from motor vehicles and boats; and
- To minimise the potential environmental damage from the operation of boats and vehicles.

3. Using Boats or Motor Vehicles on Stradbroke Island

3.1 *Licensing and Authorisation*

For any boat or motor vehicle used on Stradbroke Island by staff, researchers, students, visitors, etc of MBRS, the operator must hold a valid licensed to operate the boat or motor vehicle. For University owned or leased boats or motor vehicles, the operator must hold appropriate authorisation from the section, centre or school responsible for the vehicle.

For specialised vehicles that require only general licensing to operate (e.g. four-wheel drives) operators must have recognised accreditation for operating these vehicles (e.g. four-wheel drive training license) in any manner other than road driving.

3.2 *Legal Use*

All motor vehicles must be operated in accordance with local and state road regulations. Similarly, any boat must be operated in accordance with all waterways regulations.

3.3 *Permits and Reporting Access*

The Moreton Bay Research Station is the University's visible presence for the Stradbroke Island Community. Any activity undertaken by the University is generally assumed to be associated with the Research Station and any issues raised by the community is often directed to the station.

3.3.1 Reporting Access

Any access by a University controlled and/or signed vehicle or boat on or around Stradbroke Island must be reported to the Research Station. The “*Notification for Accessing Stradbroke Island and Surrounds*” form is attached in Appendix 1. If you are required to submit a “*Notification for Accessing Stradbroke Island and Surrounds*” (refer to the details on the form), follow the directions on the form to complete and submit it.

3.3.2 Permits

You may be required to carry permits for vehicle and boat access for certain areas of Stradbroke Island and its surrounds. Refer to the details below on possible requirements for permits and ensure these are gained. Submit all details of permits with the “*Notification for Accessing Stradbroke Island and Surrounds*” Form.

4. Trafficable Areas

4.1 *Two-wheel Drive/Road Vehicles*

All two-wheel drive and road vehicles are restricted to operating on sealed (i.e. bitumen) or loose-sealed (e.g. gravel) roads only.

4.2 *Four-wheel Drive Vehicles*

Four-wheel drive vehicles can be used for road driving or off-road access. However, some parts of Stradbroke Island have limited or no access to vehicles. Four-wheel drive access is only permitted in areas where there are no access restrictions or can be operated in the provisions of a limited access area.

Entering no-access areas is only permitted if the operator has written permission from the land holder/caretaker prior to undertaking the journey. Beach access is only allowed by permit from the Redlands Shire Council (for a fee). A copy of the written permission or permit must be supplied to the MBRS manager with the times and dates that the area will be accessed.

For information regarding the accessible and non-accessible areas and obtaining permits, speak with the MBRS manager.

When accessing off-road areas, vehicles must remain on forged tracks or identified routes when ever possible.

4.3 *Boats*

All boats will use, where possible, marked channels. General boating operations are limited to unrestricted areas. For access to restricted areas, or undertaking restricted operations in exclusive areas, prior, written approval must be gained by the operator from the administering body and supplied to MBRS manager with times and dates of entry and operation.

4.4 Parking

Parking is not regulated on the MBRS site. Parking external to the site is subject to the restriction of the local authority bylaws. As MBRS is not an exclusive user of roads in the surrounding area, available space must be shared with the community.

University owned and operated vehicles have priority for parking in the MBRS site. Other areas adjacent to the site (including street parking) are available for vehicle parking. Check with the MBRS manager for suitable locations to park vehicles.

If a vehicle owner attending MBRS is instructed to move a vehicle by local authorities or staff of MBRS, it is to be moved immediately.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Refuelling

Boats, motor vehicles or removable fuel tanks are to be refuelled at designated refuelling sites or petrol stations only. No bulk fuel for transfer to or from a boat or motor vehicle is to be stored at MBRS. For information regarding the location of refuelling areas, see MBRS manager.

For large boats that are not removed from the water on a regular basis, refuelling is only to be performed by licensed and/or qualified operators and in areas designated for in water refuelling.

Smaller vessels with switchable tanks (i.e. a removable petrol tank) may change tanks at shore without being removed from the water. Tanks are not to be filled at the shore. Any reserve or extra tanks must be removed from the vessel and refuelled in the manner described above. When transferring fuel tanks between the shore and the vessel, both tanks (full and empty) must be sealed (capped). Caps on full tanks shall only be removed once inside the boat and in a location where any spillage will be contained within the vessel.

5.2 Washing

Boats and motor vehicles may be washed to remove dirt and saltwater only at MBRS. Washing should be performed with a minimum of water and biodegradable detergents as supplied by MBRS.

Engine washouts for boats may be performed at MBRS also. However, the times these can be undertaken is restricted by noise regulations (refer to the noise program in this manual).

Any other washing (i.e. degreasing), must be undertaken at dedicated locations (e.g. petrol stations and garages).

6. Transporting

6.1 People

In accordance with above, all boats and motor vehicles will only be used to transport the licensed number of occupants. People are not to travel on trays, cargo areas or on trailers.

6.2 Dangerous Goods

Boats and motor vehicles will only be permitted to transport goods it can legally carry, **including fuel**. i.e. any chemicals, radioactive material, etc must be transported in quantities legally permitted to be carried in the boat or motor vehicle under the Dangerous Goods Code.

Any person transporting dangerous goods in a vehicle must be qualified to do so.

Unless specifically designed to or when ever possible, dangerous goods shall not be stored on vehicles when not in use or unattended.

6.3 Spills

Any vehicles carrying any type of dangerous good must carry adequate spill kits to contain and clean up the transported materials (Note: provision does not need be made for quantities of fuel carried in fixed, internal fuel tanks). For water borne vessels, equipment in spill kits must be suitable for containing and absorbing spills that float on water also.

7. Responsibilities

Use of boats and motor vehicles by the University is the responsibility of the authorised operator of that boat or vehicle under the guidelines of the school that owns the boat or motor vehicle or the Property and Facilities Division if it is a University fleet vehicle.

Not disregarding any of the requirements above, the responsible operator of the vehicle must comply with the conditions of use of the vehicle from the school or Property and Facilities as applicable.

8. Documents

All documents issued with respect to boating and motor vehicle operations are held by the school that owns the boat or motor vehicle, Property and Facilities Division or the manager, Moreton Bay Research Station as required. The term documents for the purpose of this program includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Logbooks;
- Checklists;
- Notes;
- Letters;
- Invoices;
- Reports;
- Electronic Information; and
- Permissions.

9. Enquiries

For further information regarding use of boats and vehicles refer to Table 1.

Table 1. Boating and Motor Vehicle Operations Contacts

Subject	Contact	Person	Telephone
Operation of vehicles	Owner of vehicle (school or P&F as required)	Refer to telephone directory	Refer to telephone directory
Permissions	MBRS	Manager	(07) 3409 9058
Accessible Areas	MBRS	Manager	(07) 3409 9058
Transport of Dangerous Goods	Occupational Health and Safety Unit	Manager	(07) 3365 2563
Refuelling and Servicing Locations	MBRS	Manager	(07) 3409 9058
Parking	MBRS	Manager	(07) 3409 9058

10. Definitions

Motor vehicles. Any motorised vehicle including, but not limited to cars, four-wheel drives, buses, and motorbikes.