

Operational policy

Workforce and Safety

Diving, Snorkelling and Swimming

Operational policies provide a framework for consistent application and interpretation of legislation and for the management of non-legislative matters by the Department of Environment and Science. Operational policies are not intended to be applied inflexibly in all circumstances. Individual circumstances may require a modified application of policy.

Diving, Snorkelling and Swimming

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) maintains a dive, snorkelling and swimming capacity to enable it to meet its legislative functions and inter-government agreements.

Diving, snorkelling and swimming operations may expose employees to physical, physiological and psychological demands exceeding those normally placed on persons during regular workplace activities.

Minimising the risk of unexpected emergencies underwater, or on the surface, will depend upon the adequacy of diving, snorkelling and swimming operations policy and procedures, supervision, training, experience and equipment, as well as the individual diver's, snorkeler's or swimmer's psychological state and physical and medical fitness. QPWS is committed to achieving the optimum attainable level of practical health and safety standards for all employees, volunteers and other persons throughout all areas of its activities.

All QPWS diving is considered Occupational Diving and shall be undertaken under the auspices of Part 4.8 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*, and their associated standards and codes of practise.

Purpose

The *Operational policy: Diving, Snorkelling and Swimming* and the *Technical manual: Diving, Snorkelling and Swimming* apply to all agency employees including permanent, temporary and casual employees, volunteers, visiting agencies, contractors and all others whom are diving in workplaces controlled by QPWS&P.

Dive, snorkel and swim operations consist of those operations that occur from QPWS&P controlled workplaces such as vessels, marine and national park infrastructures (pontoons, jetties, moorings etc.), shore based infrastructure, beaches, rivers, creek banks, other Department or organisations' facilities.

QPWS divers, snorkelers and swimmers may also be required to dive and/or snorkel and/or swim from workplaces controlled by other persons. There are specific provisions in the *Technical manual: Diving, Snorkelling and Swimming* which must be met for this to occur.

Policy statement

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all diving, snorkelling and swimming activities are safe, legal and practical by linking the level of risk to the appropriate controls. Elements considered include training and qualifications of divers and/or snorkelers and/or swimmers, procedures and clear roles and responsibilities.

The objectives of this policy are to provide all persons performing diving, snorkelling and swimming as part of their duties for QPWS with a procedure (Technical Manual) which outlines minimum standards and provides a uniformity of practice in relation to the workplace health and safety of the diver, snorkeler or swimmer and diving, snorkelling and swimming operations.

This policy aims to ensure that diving, snorkelling and swimming operations are:

- Conducted safely and that all reasonably foreseeable risks have been assessed and minimised.
- Compliant with current Work Health and Safety Legislation, associated Codes of Practice and relevant Australian Standards.
- Applicable in the field.
- Regularly reviewed and audited.

Reference materials

- *Technical manual: Diving, Snorkelling and Swimming*

Authorities

Legislation and authorities governing safe working practices for persons who perform diving, snorkelling and swimming as part of their work, consists of:

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
- *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012*
- Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Regulation 2013
- *AS/NZS 2299.1-2007 Occupational Diving Operations- Standard Operational Practice*
- *AS/NZS 2299 – Diving medical examination forms (supplement to AS/NZS 2299.1:2007)*
- *AS/NZS 2299.2-2002 Occupational Diving Operations Part 2: Scientific Diving*
- *AS/NZS 2299.4: 2005 Occupational Diving Operations Part 4: Film and photographic diving*
- Australian Standard 2815.1 to 6 Training and Certification of Occupational Divers series
- Australian Standard AS 2815.5-2006 Training and Certification of Occupational Divers Part 5: Dive Supervisor
- Australian Standard AS/NZS 4005.2:2000 Training and Certification of Recreational Divers- Recreational Dive Supervisor
- Occupational Diving Work Code of Practice 2005 (WPHSQld)
- Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice (WPHSQld)

Further Information

Enquiries regarding this policy should be directed to the Departmental Dive Officer, Regional Dive Officers, Dive Officers, the QPWS&P WHS team.

Human Rights Act 2019 compatibility

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the [Human Rights Act 2019](#), the department has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights. When acting or making a decision under this operational policy, officers must comply with that obligation (refer to [Comply with Human Rights Act](#)).

Disclaimer

While this document has been prepared with care, it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Department of Environment and Science should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

Approved By

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Signature

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Date

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