

Boaties urged to play it safe at Lake Awoonga

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is reminding Lake Awoonga boaties to play it due to the risk of submerged hazards and falling water levels.

Recreational access to the bay located between Ironbark Gully and the main boat ramp has been restricted after a large, submerged hazard approximately 10-15 metres long was found this week.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the area had been marked with a buoy line and access to the bay had now been restricted for all recreational users.

“We’re asking all watercraft users to exercise caution when navigating this area.

“With dam capacity now at 51%, debris and other natural hazards are becoming exposed in the shallow areas near the water’s edge.

“We want boaties and other recreational users to enjoy their time on the water but it’s very important to stay safe, remain aware of your surroundings and follow the directions of all onsite signage and floating barriers.

“It’s important to remember that Lake Awoonga, just like any dam or weir, contains submerged hazards, which can be exposed at different water levels,” Mr Barlow said.

GAWB will continue to monitor conditions as water levels fall.

“Nothing is more important to us than safety and wellbeing of our visitors to Lake Awoonga. We actively monitor the presence of submerged hazards at the lake and will continue to do so,” Mrs Barlow said.

If you’re planning on taking a vessel out on Lake Awoonga, remember to:

- **Read the signs** — for important information about water, recreational activities, potential hazards, blue-green algae levels and no-go zones.
- **Stay aware of your surroundings and beware of hazards** - beware of hidden dangers such as logs, pipes and rocks under the water surface and watch out for uneven and slippery ground. Submerged hazards can be exposed at different water levels.
- **Don’t fish on or near dam and weir walls** — it’s unsafe and illegal.
- The laws on all inland waterways are the same and are set by Maritime Safety Queensland.
- Vessels may only be operated from designated launch points.
- Operate your vessel in a safe manner, in the appropriately designated area and in accordance with the instructions shown on lake signage.

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