



Kiteboarding is an increasingly popular sport worldwide and within NSW. As an activity that combines aspects of multiple water and land sports, it is attracting many new participants who may not be aware of maritime rules and regulations or fully understand their safety obligations.

Roads and Maritime Services has adopted this guidance on safe kiteboarding practices so that both novice and experienced kiteboarders can minimise the risks to themselves and to other beach and water users.

Kiteboarding can be an extreme sport, depending on location, conditions and individual capability, but it doesn't need to be dangerous. Many of the potential risks can be avoided by taking lessons and following the instructions and safety guidelines outlined here and online at rms.nsw.gov.au/beintheclear

James Grundy
NSW Kiteboarding Association



SAFE KITEBOARDING BE IN THE CLEAR

Conditions. Look. Equipment.
Attitude. Respect.

rms.nsw.gov.au/beintheclear



13 12 36



Customer feedback
Roads and Maritime
Locked Bag 928,
North Sydney NSW 2059



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SAFE KITEBOARDING BE IN THE CLEAR



Roads &
Maritime

Before you leave home

As a kiteboarder, it is your responsibility to be aware of the rules and regulations that apply to your sport.

Before you launch

- If you are new to the sport, have professional **lessons** to learn how to kiteboard safely and correctly and to build confidence
- Always **check your equipment** carefully and ensure it is in good working condition/order. Roads and Maritime recommends labelling your equipment with your contact details to help return your equipment if you are separated. Most importantly it allows emergency services to determine whether a search and rescue needs to be launched for a missing kiteboarder
- Always **check the weather and water conditions** for updated information. If you have any doubt about whether the conditions are safe, don't go out
- Ensure your **lifejacket** is appropriate for the conditions, is well fitted and meets recognised standards
- Familiarise yourself with **local rules/hazards** and observe them.

When you launch, ride and land

- **Give way** to other beach and water users to ensure their safety and give way to kites that are launching
- Keep a **safe distance** from other people when you launch, ride and land (100 m downwind buffer zone)
- **Remain aware** of what is happening all around you and any changes in weather, waves and currents
- **Never force your right of way** over other craft, maintain a lookout and be prepared to take action to avoid a collision if necessary
- Observe **distance off limits**: at least 60 m from people and swimming flags, at least 30 m from vessels and structures and a 50 m downwind safety zone between you and other craft
- Always travel at a **safe speed**.

Before you go home

When you pack up your equipment, make sure you take everything (including rubbish) with you and leave the environment exactly as you found it.

Be safe — Be in the CLEAR

Roads and Maritime has adopted the **CLEAR** safety system endorsed by the **NSW Kiteboarding Association**. **CLEAR** applies to all kiteboarders, novice or experienced.

Conditions

Check the wind, currents, waves and tides

- Never kiteboard in offshore winds
- Keep the downwind area well clear
- Stay alert-conditions change quickly on the water.

Look

Look before you launch, land, jump or change direction

- Prevent risks to yourself and others by continuously observing:
 - What other people are doing
 - Where you are in relation to objects, structures and the land
 - How these factors will affect your movements.
- Avoid potential collisions in all circumstances.

Equipment

Use the right equipment and check it every time

- Wear an appropriate lifejacket to suit the conditions. For more information visit lifejacketwearit.com.au
- Use a kite leash and make sure anything you hook into is quick release
- The kite you are using must suit the conditions, your size and ability. If it is too large to launch safely, don't
- Make sure the lines are uncrossed before you launch or you will have no control over your kite
- Always check your equipment before setting out
- Never exceed manufacturers' specifications
- Practise safety systems so they become instinctive.

Attitude

Seek and listen to local advice

- Safety should be your first and utmost priority
- Use your judgment to avoid dangerous situations; don't rely on skill to try to get out of them
- Don't exceed your limits
- Never go out unprepared.

Respect

Respect people, the law and the environment

- Use care, courtesy and common sense when you interact with fellow kiteboarders and other beach and water users:
 - Avoid irregular riding around other vessels
 - When heading into shore, keep your lines clear of others and avoid sweeping your kite over the shoreline.
- Be aware of your legal safety requirements. This includes regulations on lifejackets, distance off and avoiding collisions
- Respect the beach and aquatic environment. Don't leave rubbish. Leave the environment as you found it.

Conditions. Look. Equipment. Attitude. Respect.

