



**Dr Chris Burns**

MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

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## STAY SAFE ON THE WATER THIS EASTER

Infrastructure and Transport Minister Dr Chris Burns has urged Territorians to keep safety in mind if they plan to take to the water over the Easter weekend.

“Check the weather forecast, and check your boat and safety equipment before taking to the water,” Dr Burns said.

“The onset of the Dry Season brings south-east winds which can be just as dangerous as Wet Season storms.

“Many of our rivers are running at high levels following the recent heavy rain, so be cautious of strong currents and underwater obstacles.”

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure’s Marine Safety Branch offers the following tips for a safe and enjoyable trip on the water:

- Check the weather and tides before you leave. Useful websites are [www.nt.gov.au/ipe/dtw/tides/](http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/dtw/tides/) and [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)
- Plan your journey so you carry enough fuel. Allow extra for emergencies.
- Check that your engine is in good working order by running it before you go out.
- Inform someone of your trip plan just in case an emergency eventuates.
- Be sure you have all the appropriate safety equipment, and that it is in good repair. Check that you have enough life jackets and that your emergency flares have not expired. For more information on safety equipment, go to [www.nt.gov.au/ipe/dtw/aboutus/branches/transport/marine/](http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/dtw/aboutus/branches/transport/marine/)
- Carry a radio and an EPIRB.
- Don’t overload the vessel.
- Be considerate of other people using our waterways and take your rubbish home with you.

Dr Burns said there are about 12,500 recreational boats in the Northern Territory.

“We hope the owners of all those boats heed the message and stay safe on the water this Easter.”

Contact Minister Burns’ Office: 08 8901 4162

