

News from the Radio Room – July 2010

2 Hour Vessel Overdue Arrangements with Brisbane Water Police (BWP)

By agreement with the BWP VKQ 447 has agreed to advise BWP if a vessel has not been able to be contacted after two hours beyond its logged on time of return. VKQ 447 will make a number of calls on both the initial logged on channel any others that might make contact with you as well as your supplied mobile number before handing the situation to BWP.

Bar Crossing Arrangements with Brisbane Water Police

By agreement with the BWP VKQ 447 has agreed to request vessels crossing a bar (usually the South Passage Bar in our area) to advise when they are about to cross the bar and to advise when they have passed through the bar safely on both the way out and the way in.

If the advice confirming the safe crossing is not received within a 20 minute period VKQ 447 will immediately advise the BWP who have advised that they will organize a prompt response.

Brisbane Harbour Control Channels Night Watch

Under recent boating safety communications changes Brisbane Harbour Control have become the nighttime default contact point after the various rescue services have closed down, usually at 1800 or 2100 in the Central and Northern Bay. Vessels having problems between 2100 and 0600 should call Harbour Control on VHF Ch 16 and advise their situation.

Commercial vessels use VHF Channel 12 when north of and inside the Brisbane River and VHF Channel 13 when south of the river. It may be useful to use the dual watch facility to listen to these channels, particularly when traveling in northern Bay areas.

MBTBC Vessels Log-Ons

All members are encouraged to log on with VKQ 447 during the week and with Coast Guard Brisbane on weekends and public holidays.

Anecdotally only 30% of vessels using our ramp log on. Logging on gives us a chance to initiate enquiries and possible rescue service action if you are overdue and provides a useful check on your radio equipment should you have a need to use it in an emergency. VKQ 447 is always happy to hear from you.

Remember: For your safety, Log On. For our peace of mind, Log Off.