

Moorings

Information for mooring owners
on maintenance and compliance.



Swing moorings

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) have regulatory responsibilities for the control of aspects of moorings under the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 and the Resource Management Act 1991.

This booklet is to assist mooring owners with maintenance specifications and compliance matters necessary within the Queenstown Lakes District.

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Introduction

There are many different methods of constructing a secure mooring for a vessel.

The specifications provided in this booklet are:

- » Moorings suitable for vessels up to a maximum of 9m overall and a maximum displacement of 8 tonnes, and
- » Moorings suitable for vessels up to a maximum of 12m length overall and a maximum displacement of 12 tonnes, and
- » Include provisions allowing moorings for larger vessels, and
- » Alternate mooring types to be used following an assessment and approval.

Where a vessel owner wishes to make use of a different mooring type, to moor a vessel in excess of 12m length overall or 15 tonnes displacement, or, have a non-standard area of swing room, they must gain the approval of the Harbourmaster and hold a resource consent that allows for the length of the vessel.

An application for approval of the mooring system and/or swing room will need to demonstrate a standard of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the QLDC specifications.

Many of the moorings currently in use will have been constructed to an older specification. These moorings may continue to be used if they are still serviceable and fit for purpose; however, where any component the mooring is replaced, that component must be replaced to meet the new specifications. This will allow a period for all moorings to be brought up to the requirements of this specification but will not require owners to replace components of an older system that remain useable.

Please note: If the existing block is not concrete and represents an environmental hazard, it will need to be replaced with a concrete block.



Swing mooring design

The minimum mooring block size is 1000kg, this will accommodate most vessels of a standard design and construction up to 9 meters when paired with a strong mooring system. For vessels 9-12 meters in length, a 2000kg block is required.

If the vessel is over 12 meters in length or not of standard configuration or construction that might require a heavier block, the mooring will need to be

designed and approved by a marine engineer for the vessel using the mooring and be signed off by a suitably qualified professional.

Regardless of the mooring design capacity, the length of the vessel is regulated by the allowances of the mooring resource consent. To increase the size of your vessel using the mooring, you are required to vary your resource consent.

MOORING SPECIFICATIONS (See Figure 1)

VESSEL	MOORING					
	A		B	C		D
Vessel length overall (metres)	Mooring block air weight (tonnes ¹)		Shackle	Ground chain		Shackle or ring
			Min bar size diameter (mm)	L	Diameter (mm)	Diameter (mm)
<9 meters	1		32	Min of 5m	Min of 20	Min of 16
9-12 meters	2		32	Min of 6m	Min of 32	Min of 20
Over 12	Mooring system to be designed and approved by a marine engineer for the vessel using the mooring and be signed off by a suitably qualified professional.					
	E		F	G		H
Vessel length overall (metres)	Intermediate chain		Swivel	Top chain or rope		Buoy rope
	L	Diameter (mm)	Diameter (mm)	L	Diameter (mm)	
<9 meters	Depth of mooring plus 3m	12	20	To suit vessel min 2.5m	12mm chain or rope of equivalent strength	15mm synthetic rope
9-12 meters		16	25			

Please note: Chain and components to be considered failed and should be replaced if wear at any point exceeds 15% percent of original diameter.

¹ Mooring blocks to be embedded in the lakebed to ensure that the full passive earth pressure resistance is developed (where possible).

Swing room and vessel length

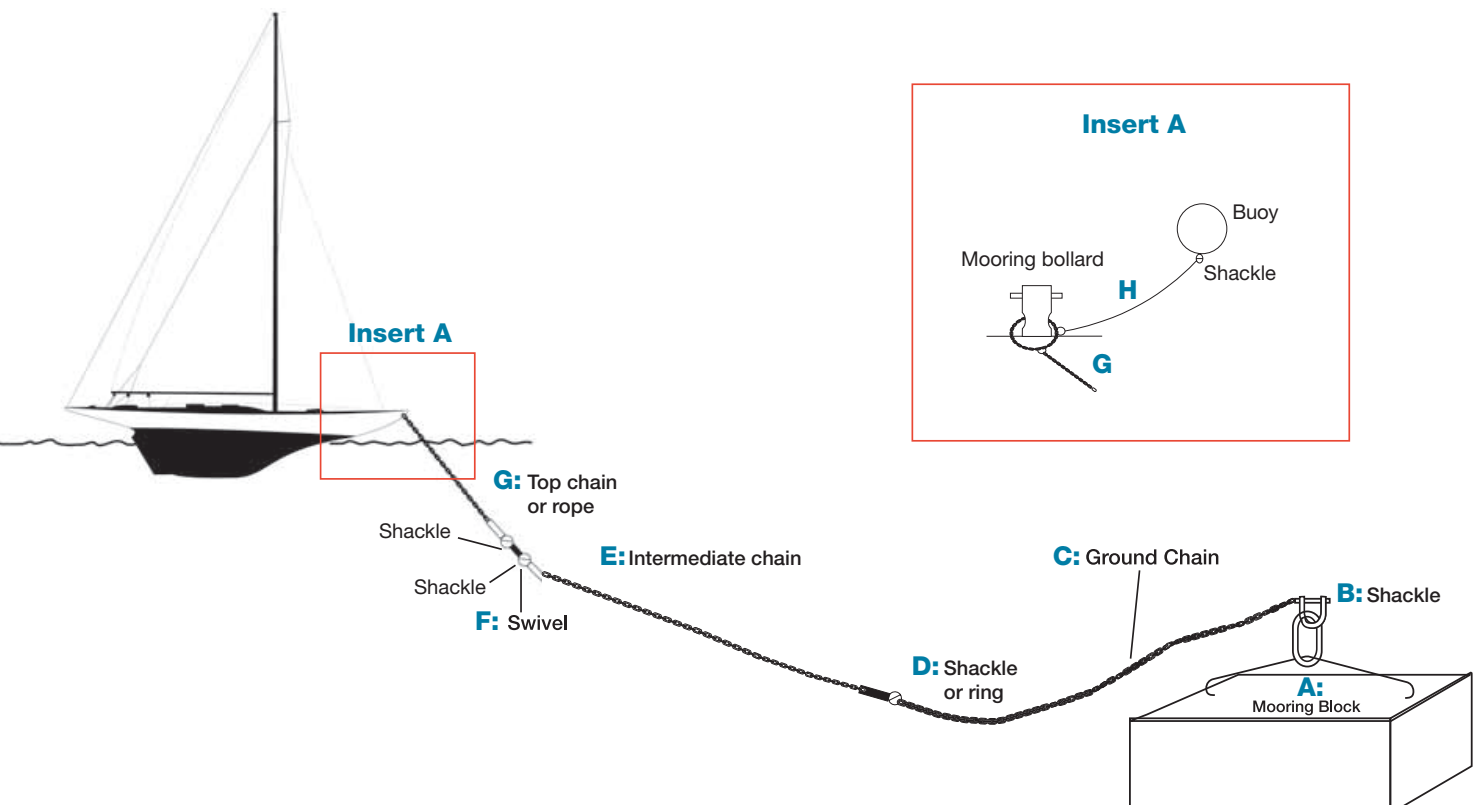
In assessing the location of a swing mooring the Harbourmaster's Office undertakes an assessment that allows moorings to be spaced at a suitable distance apart to minimise any possible conflicts between moored vessels. Vessel length, mooring system design, and depth range information is used to ensure sufficient swing room is available and thus mitigate possible damage to vessels. Resource Consents will specify the vessel length allowable for the individual mooring. Due to the congested nature of some areas within our lakes, gaining or altering resource consent to accommodate larger vessels may not be viable. We all want vessels to be securely moored and remain un-damaged.

There are various ways to design a mooring system with a reduced swing radius as may be required to gain consent in congested areas. These may range from the use of heavier than standard ground chain of a shorter length and reduced tackle, to heavier blocks and reduced chain length, to elastic type eco mooring systems that eliminate the need for ground chain.

Should you need to reduce the swing radius of your mooring for resource consent purposes, it is suggested that you consult a marine engineer or suitably qualified professional.

Please note: Vessel length referred to in mooring design and swing mooring calculations is **Total Vessel Length** including engine protrusions, platform, and overhangs.

FIGURE 1: TRADITIONAL MOORING SYSTEM



Mooring maintenance and inspection

The safety of a mooring is the responsibility of the registered mooring owner. The whole system must be inspected **every two years** to evaluate its condition and replace worn components. Inspection must be conducted by a suitably qualified professional. **The inspection report should be emailed to property@qldc.govt.nz**

The top line connecting the vessel to the mooring is most frequent source of mooring failure and should be checked regularly for any signs of wear, chafing twisting or other damage. Vessel owners should regularly replace the top rope as it shows signs of wear or damage.

Please note: QLDC does not currently have preferred suppliers for mooring inspections.

Fees and charges

Fees are structured annually on 1 July every year. Annual permits run from 1 July to 30 June.

If an owner does not undertake an inspection of their mooring site as required, or is otherwise non-

compliant, they may incur charges for inspection, removal of the mooring system or the mooring sold by QLDC. Moorings without consent or active consent applications will not be issued a permit.

Resource consents & permits

Each mooring in the Queenstown Lakes District is required to hold a resource consent, once a resource consent is granted under the RMA 1991, you will be required to apply for a Mooring Permit under the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025.

An application form is downloadable on the QLDC website:

📌 www.qldc.govt.nz/jetties-and-moorings

Please submit your resource consent decision, along with your permit application form to **property@qldc.govt.nz** for consideration.

There are a number of permits and application forms you may require:

- » Mooring/jetty permit application form
- » Mooring/jetty permit transfer form

Information about resource consent and permit requirements and conditions can be found on the QLDC website - visit

📌 www.qldc.govt.nz/jetties-and-moorings

QLDC is not responsible for the security of any mooring or any damage or loss that may occur that is related to the mooring location or system used.

Transfer of ownership

If you want to sell a mooring, please use the Mooring Transfer of Ownership form available from www.qldc.govt.nz/jetties-and-moorings

QLDC does not administer the sale of moorings, this is done privately.

Its important to know, your resource consent must also be transferred to the new owner, please contact the duty planner via the QLDC website for this process.

This form must be completed by the previous and new owners before submitting the application.

Please note: The application to transfer will not be considered until all requirements are met. A transfer fee also applies.

The following requirements must be met:

- » the mooring must have been satisfactorily inspected within the 12 months and QLDC advised of the inspection, and
- » the buoy must be correctly numbered, displayed, and
- » the permit fee must be paid up to date, and
- » resource consent reference must be made.

Please note: If unsure about resource consent validity, please contact the duty planner via the QLDC website www.qldc.govt.nz/duty-planner

Mooring buoys

The mooring buoys for each mooring will be distinctly coloured to indicate any specific conditions that may apply, and a minimum of 400mm diameter. The swing mooring number must be engraved/written on top in lettering not less than 60mm high and painted in a contrasting colour.

Buoys colours are as follows:

» Orange Buoy

Standard mooring (1 ton block) for vessels up to 9meters in length.

» Pink Buoy

Heavy mooring (2 ton block) for vessels exceeding 9 meters or where a heavy block has been required to be installed.

» Green Buoy

Where the mooring has had special conditions placed on it through the resource consent process.



FIGURE 2: STANDARD 1 TONNE MOORING BLOCK

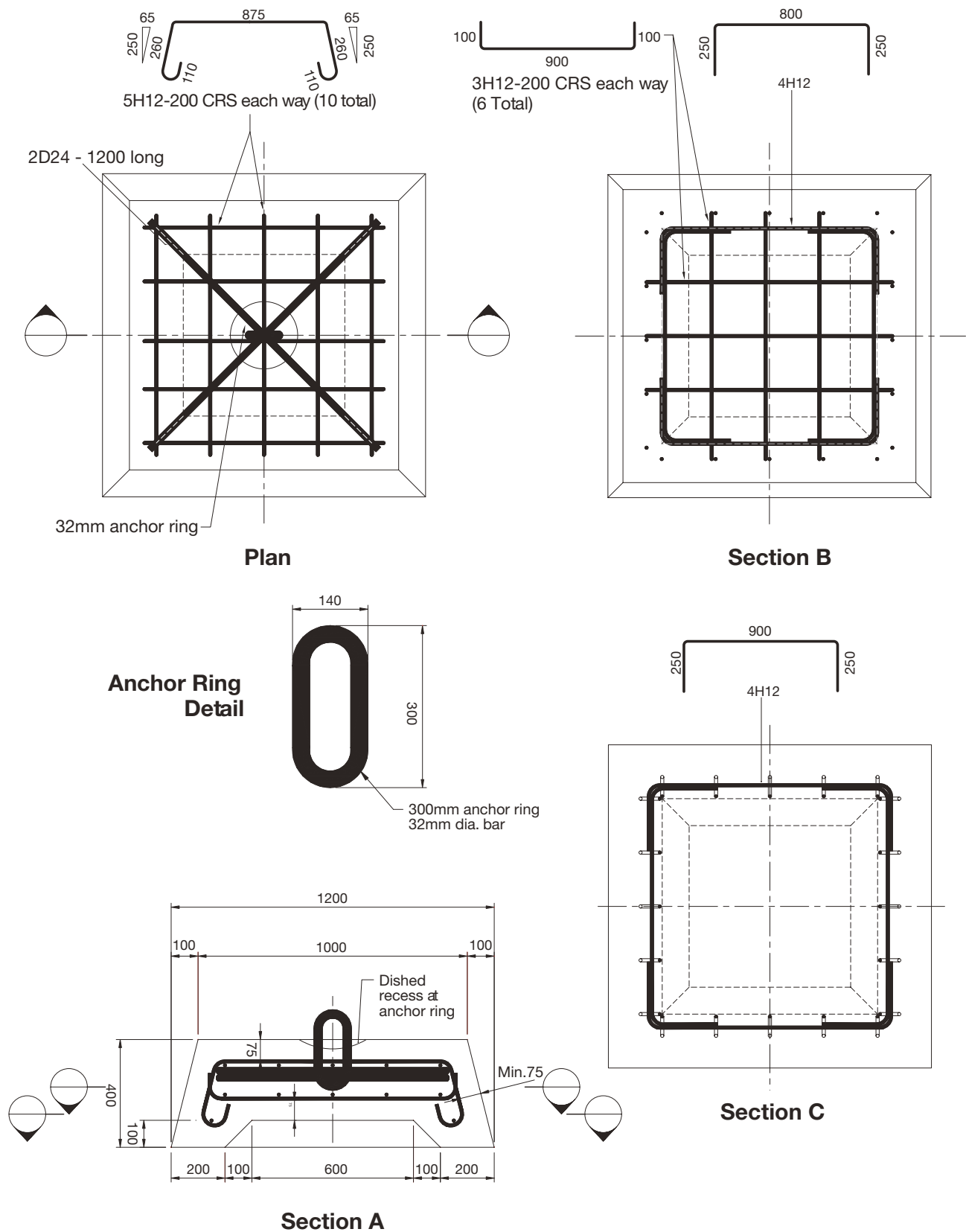
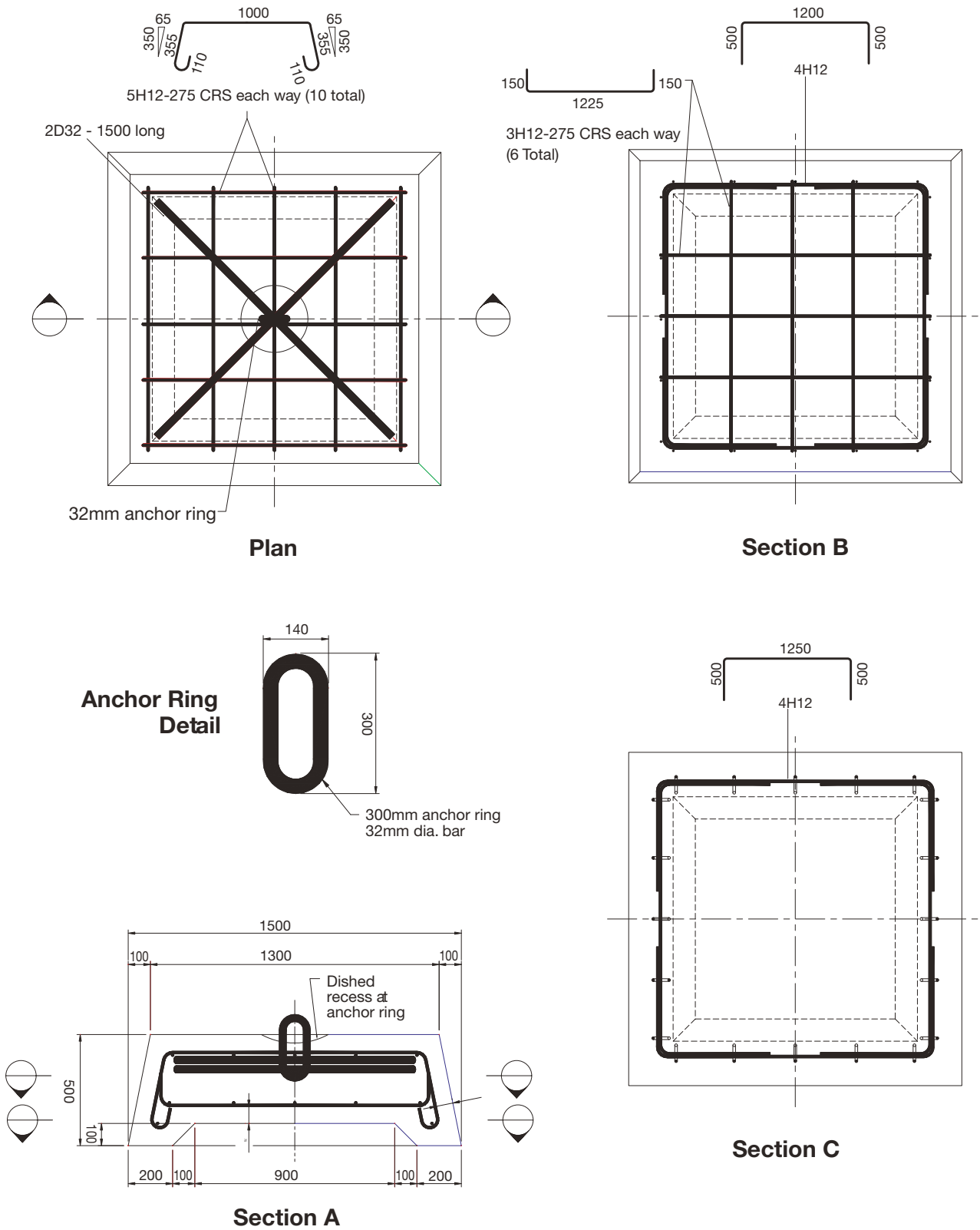


FIGURE 3: STANDARD 2 TONNE MOORING BLOCK



Permit conditions and enforcement

Mooring Permits are issued by QLDC under Part 9 (Structures and Moorings) of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025.

This grants QLDC the right to issue permits for lake structures, sets the fees for such permits and requires all owners of lake structures to ensure such moorings and/or jetties are lawfully compliant.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Non-compliance with the conditions of the permit, including failure to pay a permit fee; or a failure to properly comply with the requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991 or Building Act 2004, could result in QLDC or the Harbourmaster cancelling your permit and/or requiring the removal of your lake structure under section 48 of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025.

Enforcement under the Resource Management Act 1991 for a breach could result in QLDC issuing an Infringement Notice, Abatement Notice or, it could even result in a prosecution under the Act with a conviction and fine.

For further information on Moorings and Jetties, or information on who to contact, please visit

 www.qldc.govt.nz/jetties-and-moorings



Contact us

Mooring owners must notify QLDC of any change of details including contact email, phone number and address. Please email property@qldc.govt.nz and include your new details and mooring number.

PROPERTY TEAM property@qldc.govt.nz

- » To apply for a new permit
- » To lodge your 2 yearly mooring inspection report
- » Questions regarding your existing permit or fees
- » To lodge an application to transfer the ownership of a mooring or jetty
- » To advise if you wish to surrender your permit

RESOURCE CONSENTS TEAM www.qldc.govt.nz/duty-planner

- » To check if your mooring or jetty has a current resource consent
- » To check the conditions or expiry of your resource consent if you are unsure
- » To understand requirements to lodge an applications for a resource consent

HARBOURMASTER harbourmasterwaterways@qldc.govt.nz

For issues in regards to non-compliance of waterways rules such as not wearing life jackets, please contact the Harbourmaster:

- » For all urgent enquiries, please phone us on 03 441 0499
- » For all non-urgent enquires lodge a Request for Service on the QLDC website at www.qldc.govt.nz/contact-us

