

Best practice guide for the use of Rose Bay

Safety guidelines for seaplanes and vessels



About

It is important that both seaplane pilots and boaters engage with one another effectively on the water. This guide outlines best practices for shared use and safe operation of seaplanes and vessels in Rose Bay.

These guidelines are intended to enhance maritime regulations and improve safety in the Rose Bay area.

Specific operating areas and procedures for certain activities have been identified in this guide. Whenever practical and safe, these guidelines should be followed by everyone using the waterway in Rose Bay (including pilots and boaters).

The information in this guide has been developed in consultation with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and seaplane operators in the Rose Bay area.



PHOTO: SYDNEY SEAPLANES

FRONT COVER PHOTO: SYDNEY SEAPLANES

Safety zone around moving aircraft



Guidelines

Stay clear

Vessels should never approach a seaplane front-on because the propeller on a seaplane cannot be stopped quickly and is extremely dangerous. Where possible, boats should maintain a 60 metre distance from the front of a seaplane.

Boats

Make your intentions clear and remain outside the safety zones around the seaplane, at least 60 meters in front and 30 meters aft of a seaplane.

Seaplanes

Make your intentions clear and manoeuvre early when a potential obstacle is identified. Stay clear of established yacht race areas and maintain 60 metres from all boats.

Manoeuvring

Neither seaplanes, nor sailing boats can reverse or manoeuvre quickly, especially in confined areas. For instance, in strong winds, seaplanes have difficulty turning downwind and in light winds, sailing boats lose their power.

Never rely on another plane or vessel to manoeuvre quickly. Take your own action early to avoid confusion or risk of collision.

Boats

Stay well clear of seaplanes and make your intentions known. Avoid last-minute and abrupt direction changes when near seaplanes.

Seaplanes

Plan manoeuvring, take-off and landing to avoid confined or busy areas.

Seaplane manoeuvring area

Arriving and departing from the Seaplane Base requires manoeuvring in a confined area. This means there is limited room for seaplanes to avoid vessel traffic.

Boaters are asked to avoid transiting the area between the Woollahra Sailing Club jetty and the Seaplane Base Jetty when seaplanes are passing through.

Boats

To improve safety in this area, boaters are asked to travel at a safe speed with minimal wash when operating around the seaplane base, Woollahra sailing club and moored boats.

Seaplanes

If approaching or departing the Woollahra Sailing Club launch area, transit north/south before turning west and adhere to the transit lanes depicted on the maps in this guide.

Right of way

When the seaplane is taxiing slowly on the water it is considered a power driven vessel and will give way accordingly.

When taking off and landing the seaplane is required to give way to all vessels.

Boats

If you see a seaplane take off or land, stay outside the safety zone and avoid crossing the seaplane's path, even if you have right of way. The pilot may not see you and the seaplane is traveling fast during take-off and landing!

Seaplanes

Plan all take-offs and landings so that a minimum clearance of 60 metres from all vessels is maintained.

Take-off and landing

Seaplanes will generally take-off and land into wind or with a light crosswind, which requires the seaplane to fly low over the water.

Boats

Do not be alarmed if a seaplane passes low overhead during take-off or landing. Avoid making abrupt direction changes and crossing in front of a seaplane during take-off or landing.

Seaplanes

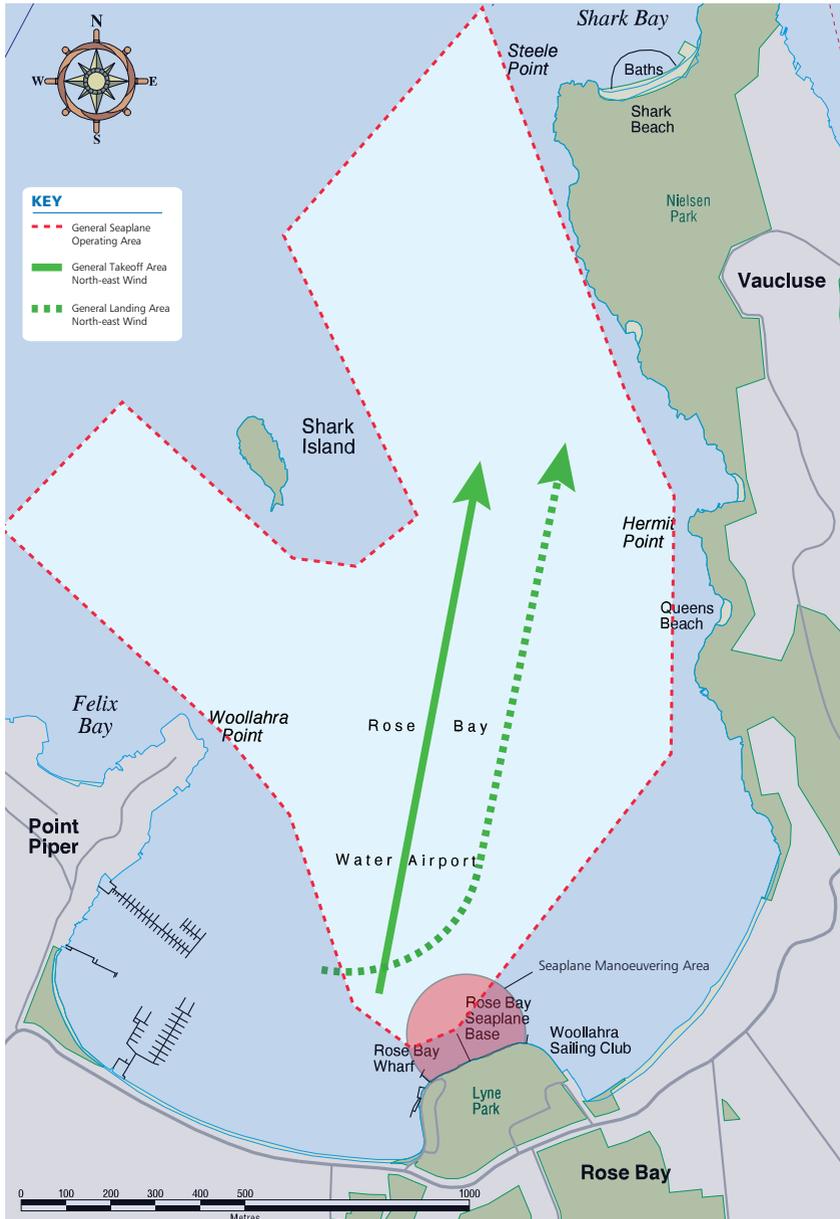
Plan take-off and landing to pass well clear of boats where possible.

Vessel operators are reminded to be cautious of other vessels and seaplanes when in the Rose Bay area. Remember it is an offence to create wash that impacts unreasonably on other vessels or structures.

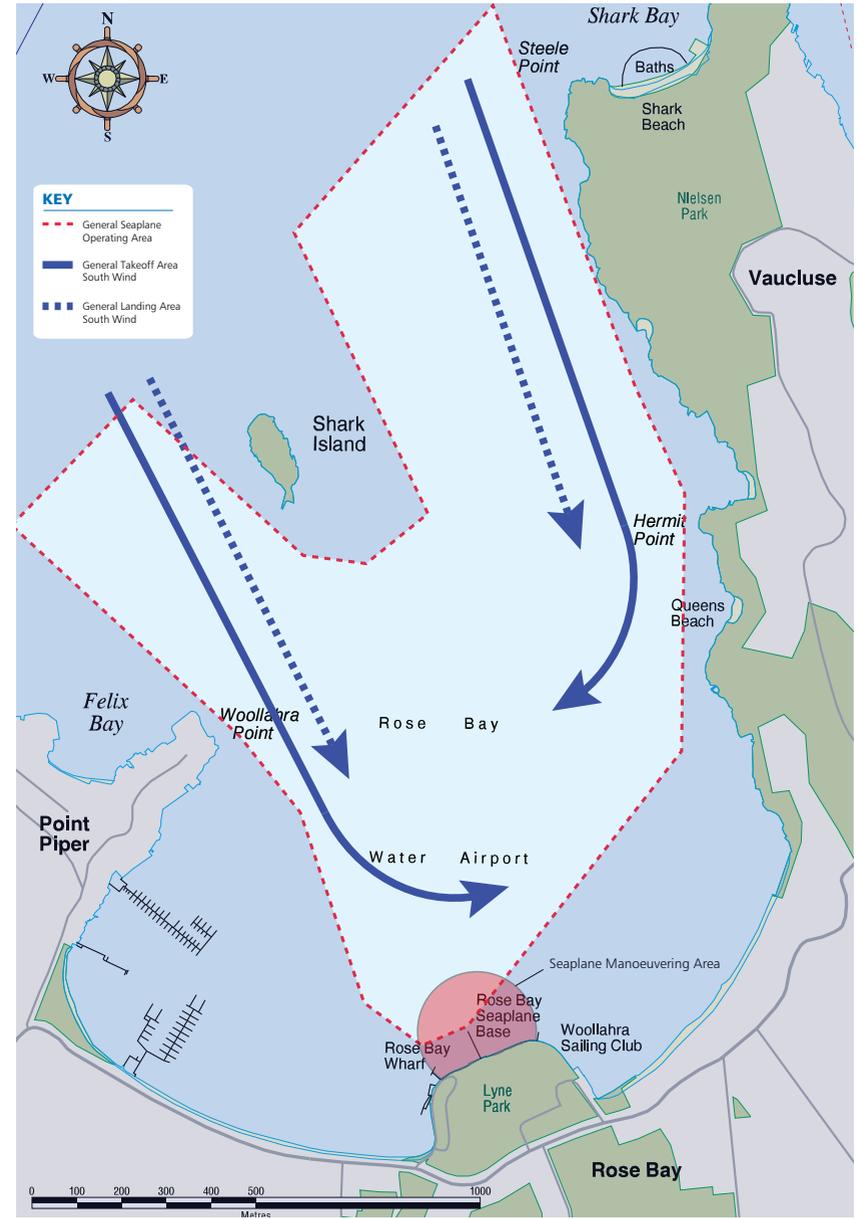


PHOTO: SYDNEY BY SEAPLANE

Normal seaplane operations North-east wind



Normal seaplane operations South wind



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