



Couple of takeaways

- All work occurring in or near water presents a number of potential risks, including those from drowning and hypothermia.
- All snorkelling is to be undertaken in "still water" conditions and a check of weather conditions must be completed to be aware of any potential changes.
- Snorkelling work is to be supervised by a Snorkelling co-ordinator.



What is this procedure for?

The purpose of this document is to describe a safe, effective, and efficient method for appropriately trained and competent workers to undertake snorkelling along shallow margins of lakes / storages.

Snorkelling activities may be undertaken for scientific investigations, including flora and fauna surveys, within shallow, still-water environments.

This procedure applies to all Hydro Tasmania group workplaces and is to be adhered to at all such workplaces.

This procedure covers snorkelling operations within Hydro Tasmania group water storage workplaces within Tasmania and, as applicable, to other locations on mainland Australia and overseas.



What are the roles and responsibilities?

Asset owner shall

- Request work to be done

Work planner shall

- Plan and schedule the work

Snorkelling job manager shall

- Authorise the work to be done

Snorkelling co-ordinator shall

- Have overall responsibility for the work being undertaken safely
- Provide access to site and provision of workplace amenities
- Provide site security within the workplace
- Provide adequate workplace supervision and/or workers needed to support the snorkelling work
- Identify and provide emergency contact persons and phone numbers
- Assess and approve the workers to undertake the work.
- Allocate roles, responsibilities and conduct a workplace briefing before commencing work. This person shall be responsible for the safety of workers involved in the activity
- Ensure that workers meet the competency requirements for undertaking Snorkelling work

Scientific Snorkelling

- Ensure that all equipment, including PPE, is in suitable condition and used appropriately
- Ensure the safety of all members of the snorkelling team.

Snorkeller shall

- Follow the instructions of the **Snorkelling Coordinator and/or Safety Observer**
- Ensure that they are fit for snorkelling
- Inform the snorkelling coordinator if they feel unwell or have other concerns
- Ensure that their PPE and snorkelling equipment is in suitable condition and used appropriately
- Ensure the safety of all members of the snorkelling team.

Safety observer shall

- Follow the instructions of the **Snorkelling Co-ordinator**
- Ensure that their PPE and snorkelling equipment is in suitable condition and used appropriately
- Ensure the safety of all members of the snorkelling team.

WHS team shall

- Coordinate the WHS risk assessments
- Maintain and review WHS documentation
- Communicate and provide training in the application of WHS processes.



How is the process managed?

Conditions under which snorkelling may be undertaken

- All Snorkelling is to be undertaken in 'still water' conditions. If work is to be undertaken around power station infrastructure (e.g. intakes, dam walls, etc.) a permit to work must be issued and an outage may need be organised.
- A SWMS must be undertaken prior to approving snorkelling work.
- All workers undertaking scientific snorkelling must meet the minimum competency requirements, as detailed in the "What training is required" section of this procedure.
- The weather conditions and surface water conditions must be checked prior to commencing snorkelling, including checking forecasts for the work period, to ensure suitable weather conditions. In high winds, rain, snow, fog or other weather conditions that reduce visibility, work must be postponed until conditions improve.
- Snorkelling is prohibited in areas of high boating traffic, e.g. around boat ramps or in shipping channels

Prior to and whilst snorkelling

- The job manager must give a safety briefing prior to commencing snorkelling to ensure all participants are familiar with the trip objectives, area of operation, environmental conditions, potential hazards, rescue/emergency procedure, recall procedure and appropriate exit/entry points on the shore or from the boat
- Snorkellers must be supervised by a **Snorkelling Co-ordinator** (who may also be in charge of a vessel) at all times

Scientific Snorkelling

- Snorkelling Co-ordinators must be equipped with a whistle. Sounding of the whistle commands all snorkellers to return to the beach/boat
- Where the **Snorkelling Co-ordinator** identifies the need, an "Alpha Flag" must be displayed adjacent to any Snorkelling Site at all times
- Where the **Snorkelling Co-ordinator** identifies the need, a safety line with surface must be worn if only one snorkeller is in the water, and may be worn by all Snorkellers, to aid in the snorkeller's recovery from the water in the event of an accident
- The safety line must be at least 5 metres or greater in length than the maximum depth of the water around the snorkelling site
- Snorkellers participating in breath hold diving activities must take great care to not exceed their personal limits.



What training is required?

The following equipment must be used in Snorkelling operations:

- Wetsuit or dry suit, as appropriate to the prevailing environmental conditions, including a hood and/or booties in case of cold-water temperatures
- Windproof clothing to wear over a wetsuit after snorkelling
- Mask, fins, and snorkel (in good condition)
- A sharp diver's knife
- First Aid Kit
- Defibrillator and/or oxygen resuscitation equipment.



What training is required?

A worker must have:

- Current First Aid
- Successfully completed wader safety training, including the Hydro Tasmania group field component
- Undertaken a Snorkelling Evaluation (Appendix - Snorkelling Evaluation / Qualifications) and deemed fit and competent to undertake the work. Snorkelling evaluations are to be assessed by an approved and appropriately qualified snorkeller.

Scientific Snorkelling Procedure

Appendix – Snorkelling evaluation/qualifications

Worker's name:

Worker's signature:

Assessor's name:

Assessor's signature:

Date:

Task	Tick
Swim and surface evaluation	
400m swim in under 12 minutes (no fins)	
Tread water for 10 minutes (no fins)	
Tow another person 25m (no fins)	
Snorkel diving skill evaluation	
Swim 1km on snorkel in less than 20mins (with fins)	
Swim 25m underwater on one breath (with fins)	
Swim 50m underwater on three breaths (with fins)	
Perform an inert diver tow (i.e., in less than 5mins, tow/push another diver a distance of 100 metres, with both divers wearing snorkelling equipment)	
Demonstrate mask clearing	
Demonstrate two methods of snorkel clearing	
Duck dive to 2 metres and retrieve an item from that depth	
Demonstrate weight belt removal and replacement at surface	
Recover weight belt from 3-5m and fit at surface	
Natural buoyancy and weight belt	