

26 November 2020

Dear School Principal,

RE: JUMPING FROM JETTIES AND PIERS

I seek your assistance in spreading the message that jumping from piers and jetties might seem like a harmless activity on hot days, however it is a dangerous activity that can lead to serious injury.

Summer holidays are almost upon us and we are seeing an increase in people under 18 jumping or diving into the Barwon River at Barwon Heads from the Public Jetty and William Buckley Pedestrian Bridge. This is often with the support of their parents.

It is important that your students understand that jumping into a natural water body such as the Barwon Estuary can result in a serious spinal injury or death. Tides and sand movement make the safety of jumping different every time. Water depths, sand bars and submerged debris and rubbish around jetties and bridges can change on a daily basis which makes water conditions unpredictable.

The key message is: Safety is everyone's responsibility; please observe all safety signage and don't jump from piers and jetties this summer. Find a safe place to access the water.

We have installed signage on the jetty and bridge advising that jumping or diving is prohibited but we are disappointed to find that they are often overlooked or ignored. We would appreciate your assistance in advising students and their families of the key messages on this issue in your school newsletter.

I extend season greetings and look forward to next year when your students may undertake activities within our coastal reserve.

Kind Regards,



Gary McPike

CEO Barwon Coast

