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Visitor safety at *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls)

The force of the water from *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls) can create treacherous conditions that are dangerous for boaters to navigate.

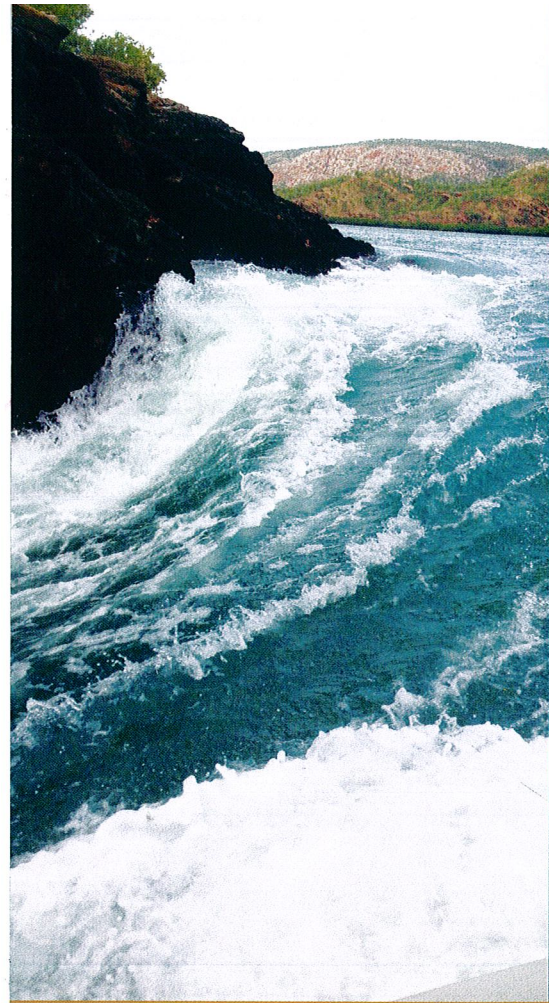
Insufficiently equipped vessels and inexperienced skippers are most at risk of accident or injury.

The area adjacent to the falls is confined, and during peak tourism season a large number of vessels, helicopters and seaplanes visit the area creating additional navigation hazards.

Dambimangari people welcome visitors to their traditional country, including visiting the *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls), however it is part of Dambimangari traditional cultural law and protocol not to travel through the falls when the tide is rushing through.

"The rushing tide is the 'Woongudd' (snake) itself', travelling through the falls at full rushing tide is when 'the Woongudd is travelling'. Traditional owners say that it is both disrespectful and dangerous to travel when the falls are rushing and further, 'the Woongudd' is damaged every time people drive through the gap."

Excerpt from the Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls and North Lalang-garram marine parks joint management plan 2016.



Garaanngaddim (Horizontal Falls) is within the Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park which is managed by Parks and Wildlife and Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation. Safety is a major concern around the falls as environmental conditions create dangerous tidal movement. Skippers are reminded they are responsible for the safety of their vessels and passengers.

In addition to offshore marine safety standards detailed by the Department of Transport, visitors can stay safe when travelling through *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls) by:

- checking the weather, tide and state of flow before entering
- not travelling through the falls when the tide is rushing through

A 7km drone exclusion zone surrounding *Garaanngaddim* (Horizontal Falls) has been created for the safety of seaplanes and helicopters (see image opposite). The area surrounding the falls can become very busy with helicopters and seaplanes landing.

It is important to avoid seaplane landing areas and monitor marine channel 16 when in the vicinity of the falls.

