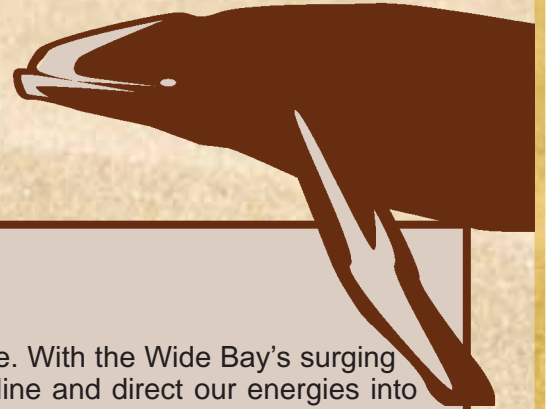
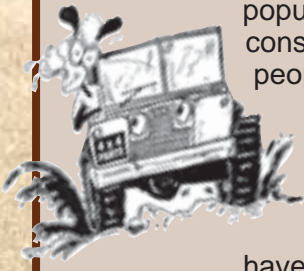


News from... Great Sandy Biosphere



Driving towards a better future!



Our Coastal Zone is under greater pressure now than ever before. With the Wide Bay's surging population it is imperative to take stock of our coastline and direct our energies into conserving its values for future generations. Values however, mean many things to many people. The first act for a new Code of Practice for access to Tidal Wetlands and Sandy Foreshores being conducted by P7Offroad on behalf of BMRG has been to begin a process of identifying values and users.

P7Offroad conducted public meetings in Bundaberg and Maryborough last week to begin to gauge these variables. Interestingly both P7 Offroad and the BMRG have also received interest in the project from other parts of Queensland and interstate.

Much of the interest is centred on the process that we are employing to ensure the code takes on a life after the conclusion of the project. To do this, we have taken a grass roots approach in welcoming input from users.

The project will empower responsible users of our coastal zone to establish a set of positive, repeatable behaviours which will ensure that future access has a minimal impact. Representation, importantly, includes clubs and associations but also commercial and private interests. The initial meetings called for participants to join technical working groups to formulate the actual Codes of Practice. These technical working groups will meet at least three times in early 2010 in order to develop documents which are palatable and understandable to the general community. Project partners at DPI&F (DEEDI) and DERM will create a series of fact sheets to help people better understand the importance and fragility of our coastal regions.

If you feel that you have something to offer, or would like to just stay in touch with developments, please contact Dave Darmody on 0417 761 610 or email dave@p7offroad.com.au. Alternatively, log onto www.4x4training.com.au and follow the links to the wetlands and foreshores discussion board which will become the central location for discussion and formulation of these important documents.

