

For Everyone



Our beaches are an amazing asset for recreation, and allow us a chance to appreciate some of our iconic species. Due to its popularity, our coastline faces increasing pressure.

A few simple steps in preparing and conducting your visit to the beach will ensure that it remains intact for future generations.

...with special thanks to steering group members and Radium Television Productions.



This Code of Practice is supported by the Burnett Mary Regional Group, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.



Want to know more?
 Support material, including fact sheets, are available from these web sites:
www.4x4training.com.au
www.bmrg.org.au
www.fido.org.au

Planning for a great day on...
 the Beach!



Highway or Habitat... or both?

Planning your trip

The beach may be a gateway to other locations, or a destination in itself. Half the fun in 4wding can be in the planning. Take the time to learn about the area, its attractions and make the best use of your time.

- ✓ Study the tide charts and weather forecasts for the entire planned trip.
- ✓ Plan to drive on the beach 2 hours either side of low tide.
- ✓ Be reasonable with the distances that you plan to cover.
- ✓ Ensure that your 4wd is in good mechanical condition.
- ✓ Plan your time to be off the beach during high tides.
- ✓ Make purchasing decisions that lead to minimal packaging and waste.
- ✓ Plan for self sufficiency, including recovery gear.
- ✓ Make yourself aware of driving and camping regulations.

On the beach

Remember that the beach is great to visit, but it is also home to many species of plants and animals.

- ✓ Drive on the hard sand near, but not in, the wave zone.
- ✓ Be aware of resting and nesting shorebirds and their chicks. Some have flown a very long way and are storing energy for their return flight, disturbing them can kill them.
- ✓ Enter beach campsites from the hard sand to avoid creating deep impressions along the foot of the foredunes.
- ✓ Drive carefully through beach cuttings, the vegetation on the fore dunes is what holds the area together.
- ✓ Be aware of other beach users.
- ✓ Recognise when you are bogged. Stop and attempt to reverse rather than just spinning wheels.

There is no driving environment as unpredictable and dynamic as a beach.

Before you hit the beach

The only impression you should leave behind should be tyre tracks, which will be washed away on the next high tide.

- ✓ Take the time to wash down the underside of your 4wd to avoid spreading weeds.
- ✓ Ensure all loads are securely and sensibly fastened.
- ✓ Choose an appropriate tyre pressure on 4wd and trailer.
- ✓ When lowering your tyre pressures you are aiming to increase vehicle flotation by increasing the length of your tyres' footprint.
- ✓ Consider how you will deal with your rubbish.

Off the beach

In order to minimise your impact, camp in locations which will comfortably accommodate your group.

- ✓ Camp only in approved, designated campgrounds.
- ✓ Utilise facilities, or use a chemical toilet.
- ✓ Bring your own milled, clean firewood (where campfires are permitted). Collecting fallen timber removes habitat for small animals.
- ✓ When parking to fish or play, park your vehicle side on to oncoming traffic and well away from the driving line.
- ✓ If beach camping, camp well away from other campers to allow them the peace and quiet that you have come looking for yourself.