



Sandy Foreshores Fact Sheet 1

Beach Conditions

The tide goes in and the tide goes out...

The upper end of the tidal range is home to a diverse array of plants and animals. Shorebirds and nesting turtles seek refuge just above the high tide line, this is also where the sensitive and important pioneer plants of the foredune are found. These plants help to hold the sands together and protect the areas behind.

Plan your time on the beach...

Driving two hours either side of low tide is easier on your passengers, your car, and keeps you well away from the sensitive habitat areas found at the high tide line.

The careful driver will always be on the lookout for indications of changing beach conditions - including wave action. Rogue waves which wash further up the beach than others are not uncommon and can catch an inattentive driver by surprise.

Keeping a lookout for the relative depth of wheel tracks left by other vehicles will give the driver an indication of the hardness of sand.

The beach is not just a road; it is a place for recreation, relaxation and a fragile habitat for plants and animals.

Beach driving requires the greatest care and attention to the driving environment.



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Keep off the dunes and away from the high tide line
 Plan to drive two hours either side of low tide
 Know your tides and don't get caught out with extra high or King Tides
 Watch out for wind-blown salt haze and hidden obstacles
 Read the waves and watch out for changing beach conditions

The Rule of Twelfths...

If a tide table gave us the information that tomorrow's low water would be at noon and that the water level at this time would be 2 meters and that at the following high tide the water level would be 8 meters. We could work out the height of water at 3:00 p.m. as follows:

- The total increase in water level between low and high tide would be: $8 - 2 = 6$ metres.
- In the first hour the water level would rise by 1 twelfth of the total (6 m) or: 50cm
- In the second hour the water level would rise by 2 twelfths of the total (6 m) or: 1m
- In the third hour the water level would rise by 3 twelfths of the total (6 m) or: 1.5m
- This gives us the increase in the water level by 3:00 p.m. as 1.5m or a tide height of 3.5m.

Spring Tides

“Spring tides” are especially strong tides which occur during new and full moons every month of the year. They occur when the Earth, the Sun and the Moon are in a line. The gravitational forces of the Moon and the Sun both contribute to the tides.

Neap Tides

“Neap tides are especially weak tides. They occur when the gravitational forces of the Moon and the Sun are perpendicular to one another (with respect to the Earth). Neap tides occur during quarter moons.



For more information:
www.BMRG.org.au
www.P7OFFROAD.com.au

