

Parking your vehicle

- Park well away from traffic areas.
- Park at an angle to the water. This way, approaching traffic can see that you have stopped.



Remember! Do not park on sand dunes. This is illegal.

Give way to pedestrians

- They will not hear your vehicle over the sound of the surf and wind.
- Always slow down and drive carefully where there are pedestrians.

Give way to wildlife

- Drive around flocks of birds. Do not drive through them. They are resting after long, exhausting migration flights.
- Never approach dingoes or encourage their attention. Stay in your vehicle and allow them to pass.

Give way to other vehicles

- Tracks are usually single lane and can become busy.
- Never drive off the track.
- Use the passing bays provided.
- Be courteous. The closest vehicle to a bay should move off the track. The other vehicle should wait until the move is complete.
- Give way to traffic coming downhill. Heavy vehicles and vehicles with trailers have right of way in any situation as they are more difficult to handle.

Remember! Tracks can be rough so allow plenty of travelling time. Your passengers will not enjoy a fast bumpy ride, and you could injure their spines. It is better to go slower than the speed limit and drive to suit the conditions.

Always bring

- a tyre gauge
- air pump
- water
- tow rope
- snatch strap and shovel
- first-aid kit.



Vehicle permits

- Vehicle permits are required to drive on beaches and inland tracks in some protected areas.
- Book your permit online at www.qld.gov.au/camping or call 13 13 04.

Do you know what to do if your vehicle becomes stuck? Do you know how to correctly and safely use recovery gear? If not, ask your hire company for advice or consult a 4WD technical guide before your trip.

Quick tips

- Adjust tyre pressures to the surface you are driving on – but keep within the manufacturer's specifications.
- Ensure your vehicle is engaged in 4WD when on sand.
- Keep below the speed limit.
- Do not drive when you are tired.
- Do not drink and drive.
- Drive for the conditions.

If you are a passenger and the vehicle is being driven unsafely, say something – it could save your life. Horrific accidents happen when drivers take stupid risks.

In an emergency

- Dial 000.
- In remote areas medical assistance is hours away.
- Have a first-aid kit with you and know how to use it.

For further information

Visit us online at www.epa.qld.gov.au.

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Driving on sand



**Drive safely.
Help can be hours away.
Don't become a statistic.**



Queensland Government
Environmental Protection Agency
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Driving on sand – safely

Queensland's sand islands and coastal parks are a great place to visit in a four-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicle. These places can be remote and surprisingly fragile. Driving on sand requires special care. By following these tips you will help to protect these areas and have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Are you safe to drive?

Do not drive when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or medication.

Remember! Driving on sand is different to driving on hard surfaces. On sand you need to be:

- constantly alert, and
- familiar with sand-driving techniques and how 4WDs handle on sand.

Driving restrictions

- Not all beaches are safe to drive on.
- Check www.epa.qld.gov.au and with your hire company about any beach driving restrictions that might apply to the park that you are visiting.

On inland tracks and soft beach sand

- Engage locking hubs and 4WD on sand.
- Select low gears for soft, dry sand.
- Avoid sharp turns and sudden braking.
- You may choose to reduce tyre pressure to maintain traction, but if you do, do not forget to re-inflate your tyres to resume speed on harder sand or surfaces.

Remember! When adjusting tyre pressure always:

- Check first that your tyre pressure gauge works.
- Keep within the manufacturer's specifications.
- Consider the load your vehicle is carrying.

Load your vehicle correctly

- Do not overload your vehicle.
- Load your vehicle evenly, with heavy items stored low.
- Vehicles with too much stored on roof racks can overturn or become stuck.

Remember! The weight and balance of a 4WD is different to a normal car.

Keep below the speed limit

- Speed limits on beaches and inland tracks apply.
- Be aware of the limits at your location and obey all road signs.

Remember! People driving too fast are more likely to have accidents.

Obey all road rules

- Normal road rules apply on beaches and on inland tracks.
- Use indicators only to overtake or turn.
- Keep to the left of oncoming traffic.
- Wear seatbelts at all times.
- Never sit outside the vehicle – people have suffered serious injuries doing this!



Reaching the beach

- Use well-established tracks to reach the beach.
- Never drive across sand dunes – this is illegal.

On the beach

- Travel at low tide, or within two hours either side of low tide.
- Stay on the harder sand between the waterline and the high tide mark, to get the firmest surface.
- Avoid the salt water – you may become stuck.



Remember! Beach traffic is two-way, so keep left.

Watch out for

- **Rocks.** Do not attempt to pass them if the tide is high. If there is an inland bypass, use it.
- **Pools** left by the falling tide which hide dangerously soft sand. Vehicles stuck in these are difficult to rescue. Pass on the high side, close to the dry sand.
- **Washouts** – ditches in the sand created by the surf and creeks – are dangerous if hit at high speed.
- **Landing aeroplanes.** Obey signs at beach landing zones. Drive higher up on the beach if necessary. Planes need the wetter, harder sand to land.



Remember! Go slowly. Hazards are hard to see at high speeds.

Crossing creeks

- Cross carefully and always in 4WD.
- Never stop mid-stream, or you'll become stuck.
- Walk across the creek first to check the depth.