

DRIVING ON SAND SAFETY GUIDE

CROSSING WATERWAYS

- Walk across the creek first to check the depth.
- Slow down. Cross carefully and always in 4WD.
- Avoid getting stuck—never stop mid-stream.

PARKING YOUR VEHICLE

- Park well away from traffic areas, but not on the sand dunes as that is illegal.
- Park at an angle to the water so approaching traffic can see that you have stopped.



Photo: Adam Creed © Qld Govt

Remember: the beach is also a road, so sit well out of the traffic lanes and watch your children at all times.

GIVE WAY TO PEDESTRIANS

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

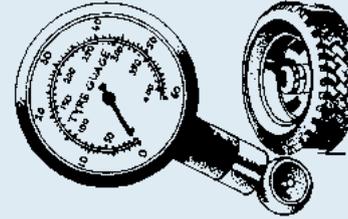
GIVE WAY TO OTHER VEHICLES

- Inland 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 most situations as they are more difficult to manoeuvre.

Remember: tracks can be rough so allow plenty of travel time. Your passengers will not enjoy a fast bumpy ride and may be injured if you drive too fast. Go slower than the speed limit and drive to suit the conditions.

ALWAYS BRING

- A tyre gauge that works
- Air pump
- Water
- Tow rope
- Snatch strap and shovel
- Traction mats.



VEHICLE PERMITS

Vehicle permits are required to drive on beaches and inland tracks in recreation areas.

Book your permit online at qld.gov.au/camping

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. Stay with your vehicle if you get into trouble, and if it is safe to do so.

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

IN AN EMERGENCY

In an emergency dial Triple zero (000). In remote areas, medical assistance may be hours away. Carry a well-stocked first-aid kit and know how to use it.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

 queenslandnationalparks.com.au

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DRIVING ON SAND—SAFELY

Queensland's sand islands and coastal parks are great for four-wheel-driving but these places are remote and surprisingly fragile. Driving on sand requires special care. Drivers must be prepared for the ever-changing sand environment and should realise that help can be hours away. By following these tips you will help to protect these areas and have a safe and enjoyable visit. Please drive safely and don't become a statistic.

Remember: driving on sand is different from driving on hard surfaces or sealed roads.

High clearance 4WD vehicles are recommended, preferably with low-range gear selection. On sand you need to be:

- Constantly alert for potential hazards.
- Familiar with sand-driving techniques.

ARE YOU SAFE TO DRIVE?

Normal road rules apply. Never drive tired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

WHERE CAN I DRIVE?

Before you visit a sand park, find out about any restrictions that apply from your hire company and queenslandnationalparks.com.au

- Check road conditions at 131940.qld.gov.au before you travel.
- Pay attention to warning signs.
- Avoid night driving.
- Not all beaches are safe to drive on.

ON INLAND TRACKS AND SOFT BEACH SAND

- Engage locking hubs and 4WD.
- Select low gears for soft, dry sand.
- Avoid sharp turns and sudden braking.
- Consider reducing tyre pressure to maintain traction but be mindful of manufacturer specifications.
- Always reinflate your tyres to recommended pressure for hard or sealed surfaces.
- Keep a safe distance behind other vehicles.

Remember: when adjusting tyre pressure always:

- Check first that your tyre pressure gauge works.
- Consider the load your vehicle is carrying and towing.
- Keep within the manufacturer's specifications—re-inflate to normal pressure before driving on hard surfaces.

LOAD YOUR VEHICLE CORRECTLY

- Do not overload your vehicle.
- Load your vehicle evenly, with heavy items stored low.
- Uneven or heavy loads on roof racks can cause vehicle roll-overs.

Remember: the weight and balance of a 4WD is different to a normal car.

KEEP BELOW THE SPEED LIMIT

- Speed limits apply on beaches and inland tracks.
- Check speed limits at your location and obey all road signs.

Remember: people driving too fast are more likely to have accidents. Drive to prevailing conditions—i.e. much slower than the speed limit in bad weather, poor visibility and rough road/beach surfaces.

OBEY ALL ROAD RULES

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



Photo: © Qld Govt

REACHING THE BEACH

- Use well-established and signposted access tracks to reach the beach.
- Never drive across sand dunes or over coastal vegetation—this is illegal.

ON THE BEACH

- Travel at low tide, or within 2 hours either side of low tide.
- Stay on the harder sand between the waterline and the high tide mark.
- Avoid the salt water and take care in creek crossings—you may become stuck.
- Keep left! Beach traffic is two-way.
- Please don't drive over turtles! They nest and hatch from November to March.
- Please don't run into birds! Beaches and dunes are their nesting and roosting places.



Photo: © Qld Govt

Remember: beach traffic is two-way, so keep left.



Photo: © Tourism and Events Qld

WATCH OUT FOR BEACH HAZARDS

- **Rocks**—do not attempt to pass them if the tide is high. Use an inland bypass.
- **Pools** left by the falling tide hide dangerously soft sand. Vehicles stuck in these are difficult to rescue. Pass on the high side, close to 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.
- **Watch for pedestrians**—especially young children, and slow down.