

Four-wheel driving on

North Stradbroke Island
Main Beach and
Flinders Beach



7061 09/10



Introduction

North Stradbroke Island (NSI) is a great place to visit by four-wheel-drive (4WD). The beach is a fragile place where vegetation, birds and animals need special consideration.

You also need to know the beach 'road' rules, how to drive on the sand and the need to share the area safely with other beach users.

Take some time to read this booklet to ensure your NSI 4WD experience is fun, safe and takes care of the environment.

Beach access permits

To take a 4WD onto Main and Flinders beaches you will need to purchase a beach access permit.

A permit is valid for 12 months.

Redland City Council uses the revenue from the permits to maintain, improve and study the natural areas on the island.

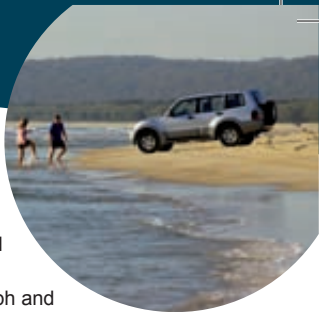
Beach access permit conditions

Access onto the beach and driving of a vehicle on the beach 1 hour before and 1 hour after high tide is not permitted. Please refer to the tide information provided at www.more2redlands.com.au > explore > leisure and recreation > 4WD on Straddie beaches > tide times

- All drivers must hold a current driver's licence
- The permit conditions apply to the holder and all other drivers of the vehicle
- You must comply with all regulatory signs
- The permit sticker must be displayed at all times on the left side of the windscreen above the registration sticker
- You must access the beach through the designated access points
- Do not drive or park within one metre of the front dune or on any dune vegetation
- Do not park your vehicle so that it will obstruct through traffic
- Ensure all passengers can get out of the vehicle safely
- You must observe all relevant provisions of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act, 1995
 - Vehicle access to camping areas is only permitted where the driver or occupants hold a valid camping permit
 - Observe all no access signage.

(Conditions relate to Redland City Council Local Law 15 (Parks and Reserves), 1999.)





Road rules on the beach

Driving on the beach is the same as driving on a public road - you must obey all the road rules:

- the speed limit on Flinders Beach is 40 kph and on Main Beach is 60 kph
- use your indicators to overtake or turn
- wear a seatbelt at all times
- always remain inside a moving vehicle to avoid serious injury
- learner drivers must hold a licence and display their 'L' plates
- your blood alcohol content must be below 0.05 per cent, or zero if you are a 'P' plate or learner driver.

Queensland Police regularly conduct speed checks and random breath testing on the beach.

Council's Local Laws Officers patrol the beach and are delegated with authority to:

- direct someone to cease an activity
- direct someone committing an offence to leave the area
- issue an on-the-spot fine.

Fines can be given for:

- taking a vehicle onto the beach without a permit
- driving in a reckless manner, without due care, without reasonable consideration of other people or excessive speeding
- breaching permit conditions
- not complying with an authorised officer's directions
- damage or interference to flora, fauna, facilities, notices or equipment.

Revoking your permit

Council can revoke your permit if:

- your application contains false or misleading information
- you do not comply with the permit conditions.

Please abide by these conditions and help care for Straddie's beautiful beaches.

Where do I get a beach access permit?

Redland City Council Cleveland Customer Service Centre

Cnr Bloomfield and Middle Streets, Cleveland
Ph: 3829 8999

Capalaba Customer Service Centre

Capalaba Place, Noeleen Street, Capalaba
Ph: 3843 8011

Both open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
Wednesday 10.00am – 4.30pm, Weekends closed
Email: rcc@redland.qld.gov.au
www.redland.qld.gov.au

Redlands on Moreton Bay Visitor Centre

Shop 2, Raby Bay Harbour, 152 Shore Street, Cleveland
Ph: 1300 667 386

Open: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Weekends 9.00am – 3.00pm, Christmas day closed
Email: explore@more2redlands.com.au
www.more2redlands.com.au

Sea Stradbroke

12 Emmett Drive, Toondah Harbour, Cleveland
Ph: 3488 9777

Open: Monday – Thursday 6.00am – 5.00pm
Friday 6.00am – 7.00pm, Saturday and Sunday 6.00am – 3.00pm
Email: admin@bigredcat.com.au
www.bigredcat.com

Stradbroke Ferries

Booking office – end Middle Street, Toondah Harbour, Cleveland
Ph: 3488 5300

Open: Monday – Thursday 5.10am – 5.00pm
Friday 7.30am – 7.00pm
Saturday and Sunday 7.10am – 2.30pm
Email: info@stradbrokeferries.com.au
www.stradbrokeferries.com.au
Times subject to change

Dunwich News

5 Ballow Road, Dunwich
Ph: 3409 9200

Open: Monday – Friday 6.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday and Sunday 6.00am – 2.00pm

Straddie Super Sports

18 Bingle Road, Dunwich
Ph: 3409 9252
Open 7 days

Caring for the environment

NSI (Minjerrabah) is part of Moreton Bay, an internationally recognised significant marine and intertidal habitat.

Moreton Bay is essential to the wellbeing of many species of wildlife. There is nowhere else these animals can go, and activities like beach driving, boating and fishing can have a significant impact on their survival.

Enjoy the recreational opportunities of Straddie, but keep in mind that you are sharing the environment with special plants and animals.

Sand dunes

Driving your 4WD on the dunes can start the process of dune destruction.

Vehicle tyres destroy dune vegetation by exposing the sand to wind erosion that lowers the dunes and reduces their effectiveness for coastal protection. Beach erosion increases because there is less sand in the dunes directly behind the beach and less stabilising plants.

Stable sand dunes play an important part in protecting the coastline. They act as a buffer against wave damage during storms and guard the land and the plants behind them from salt water, sea spray and strong winds.

The dunes also act as a reservoir of sand, to replenish and maintain the beach at times of erosion.

Frontal sand dunes are vulnerable. The vegetation can be destroyed by natural causes such as storms, droughts and fire or by human interference such as vehicles or excessive foot traffic.

The beach, between high and low tides, is more resilient than the sensitive dunes that we cross to reach it.

For this reason damaged and sensitive dunes are often fenced off for protection and specific access tracks provided for vehicles and people.



Plants on the beach

Special plants grow in areas exposed to salt spray, sand blast, strong winds and flooding from the sea. They often have waxy or hairy coverings on stems and leaves and grow low to the ground.

They have strong root systems and spread rapidly creating a mesh of creeping stems, so if one part is buried in shifting sand or uprooted, another part can continue growing.

These plants catch and stabilise the sand and provide soil nutrients for other plants.

Shorebirds

Shorebirds are protected by law. Fines apply for intentionally disturbing them while they are feeding or roosting.

Every year Moreton Bay is home to 35 species of internationally migrating shorebirds. Bar-tailed godwits, eastern curlews and grey-tailed tattlers are just some of the 50 000 migratory shorebirds that visit here annually. Some of these birds have undertaken massive migration distances from breeding grounds in places like Russia, Alaska and Siberia.

About 15 resident shorebird species live and breed around the Bay and NSI. Pied oystercatchers, beach thick-knees and red-capped plovers are just some of the 3500 birds found here all year round.

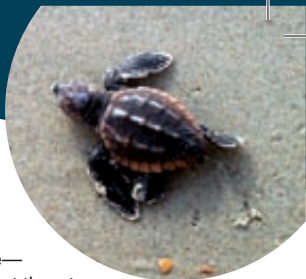
The life of a shorebird is governed by the tide. Low tide is when they feed and high tide is when they rest and conserve energy. If they don't have enough energy they might not breed or be able to get back to their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere.

This is why it's very important that we don't disturb them.

Help protect the shorebirds by:

- sitting quietly to observe them at a distance using binoculars or a spotting scope
- keep your dog under control - every time a shorebird takes flight it burns precious energy
- slow down around shorebirds, drive as far away from them as you can or avoid driving near them at all.





Wildlife

Straddie is home to lots of wildlife.

Remember—we're really visitors in their home—human interaction with our fauna is their biggest threat.

Do not feed wildlife.

The island is home to numerous rare and threatened species so take some time to have a look around—there's lots to see.

Marine turtles

Three species of marine turtle live in the waters of Moreton Bay; loggerhead, hawksbill, and green turtles.

Marine turtles depend on the beach for egg-laying. Some have waited 30 years for the chance to reproduce.

Give any marine turtles you see plenty of room and be aware they cross the beach on a high tide at night. Hatchlings are especially vulnerable to 4WDs so you should take extreme care if you spot any. If you see hatchlings at night, turn off your headlights. Artificial lights will confuse them and they may not be able to find the ocean.

Call Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) on 1300 130 372 (24-hour service) if you find hatchlings or adult sea turtles on the beach.

All marine turtles in Australia are protected by law.

Wetlands

Wetlands were once considered as just wasteland of no value.

But they are now recognised as providing many important services such as:

- nurseries for fish
- improving water quality
- reducing flood damage
- providing habitat for a wide range of species, such as frogs and birds.

On NSI the wetlands are home to several protected species such as the Wallum froglet and other specially adapted 'acid-loving' frogs.

To avoid damaging wetland vegetation, drive or walk on designated tracks only.

Pests

Not all the animals on the island are welcome. There are lots of foxes and feral cats that kill native birds and small animals.

You can help keep feral animals away by disposing of food and rubbish properly.

To help Council control feral animals, please tell rangers or council officers when and where you saw any feral animals.

Remember! Tread lightly

Travel and recreate with minimal impact.

Respect the environment and rights of others.

Educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go.

Allow for the future use of the outdoors; leave it better than you found it.

Discover the rewards of responsible recreation.

Education is the key to preserving the great outdoors.

www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au

Emergency contacts

police/fire/ambulance – 000

For more information:

Redland City Council

3829 8999

www.redland.qld.gov.au

www.more2redlands.com.au

Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)

www.derm.qld.gov.au

Tide Charts

Download from www.more2redlands.com.au > explore > leisure and recreation > 4WDs on Straddie beaches > tide times