

Regulations

UNREGISTERED VEHICLES

- 1 Motor vehicles not registered under the Motor Traffic Act are prohibited from all beaches.
- 2 Disabled drivers MAY apply for a special licence under RTA unregistered vehicles provision.

UNLICENSED DRIVERS

All persons driving or riding motor vehicles must be licensed in accordance with the Motor Traffic Act.

MAXIMUM SPEED

A speed limit of 50km/h applies and vehicles are required to slow to a speed of not more than 25km/h when within 100 metres of people on beaches.

SURF PATROL AREAS

Vehicles are not permitted to drive through a surf patrol area unless arrangements are made with the patrol captain on duty.

RIGHT OF WAY

Beach users have right of way over motor vehicles at all times and motor vehicles must be kept at a reasonable and safe distance from other beach users.

Defined Areas

Motor vehicles are prohibited from travelling above high water mark on all beaches within the Shires of Nambucca and Kempsey and the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council except when crossing the beach to and from officially constructed access points and specifically designated boat launching sites.

If when driving on the beach below high water, a section is encountered that cannot be passed because of sand drift situations, drivers are to turn around and not proceed through the drift section.

It is an offence to operate a vehicle on the vegetated dune area of any beach.

Unattended vehicles & trailers

Vehicles and trailers are not to be left on the beach whilst fishermen are actively engaged in ocean (deep sea) fishing. Vehicles are not to be left on the beach above high water mark or on the dunes except in the case of licensed professional fishermen at work, when essential to the safety of their equipment (except at Swimming Creek, Nambucca Heads).

Enforcement

The following persons are authorised to enforce this policy:-

- a Officers of the NSW Police Force.
- b "Authorised Officers" under the Recreational Vehicles Act.
- c Managers of Council operated caravan parks and camping areas in Kempsey Shire and such servants of Nambucca Shire Council, Kempsey Shire Council and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council as may be determined from time to time.
- d Council Ordinance Inspectors and Rangers.
- e Council Beach Inspectors.
- f Council Honorary Rangers.
- g Officers of National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Vandalism

A reward of up to \$1000 will be paid towards anyone providing information leading to the conviction of persons found damaging any signs, structures, etc. used to advertise and enforce this policy.

Vehicles *on* Beaches

**COUNCILS of
Port Macquarie-Hastings
Kempsey
Nambucca**



Our Beaches

The beaches of NSW are priceless assets.

Sand dunes are an important part of the beach and are subject to natural cycles of wave erosion and build up. Dune vegetation although well adapted to harsh coastal conditions is easily damaged by uncontrolled human activity.

The Councils of the Mid North Coast are united in their aim to preserve our beaches as a precious and unique environment for the caring and safe enjoyment of all.

The Councils of Nambucca, Kempsey and Port Macquarie-Hastings Shires, in their commitment to this aim have formulated this regulatory policy as a compromise satisfying conflicting demands from beach users. It endeavours to meet the needs and safety of all beach users whilst protecting the coastal environment.

The Policy in Practice

1. The regulation of motor vehicles on beaches along the defined area of the Mid North Coast applies to all motor vehicles and trailers other than those used by:-
 - a. Persons launching and retrieving boats at specifically signposted areas.
 - b. Emergency services and others during bona fide rescues.
 - c. Authorised servants of Local, State and Commonwealth Governments in the performance of their duties.
2. Licensed professional fishermen, beach haulers and licensed bait gatherers whilst at work in Kempsey and Nambucca Shires are permitted to drive on some beaches restricted to other drivers.

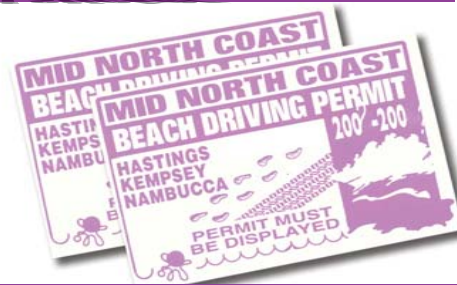
Professional fishermen operating on beaches within Kempsey Shire are subject to a separate Policy and must apply for keys to gain access to certain beaches.

Beach Driving Permit

Vehicles are not to be driven on beaches unless the vehicle carries upon it a current beach driving permit sticker of the type reproduced elsewhere in this brochure.

Display of sticker

The sticker is to be displayed on the inside bottom left hand side of the windscreen of motor vehicles and near the registration label on motor cycles.



Permits

Are available upon payment of a fee set by Councils at:-

NAMBUCCA SHIRE:-

- ♦ Nambucca Shire Council Chambers - 44 Princess St, Macksville
- ♦ Scotts Head Caravan Park
- ♦ Other outlets advertised by the Council from time to time.

KEMPSEY SHIRE:-

- ♦ Kempsey Shire Council - Sustainable Development Services Department Elbow St, West Kempsey
- ♦ Kempsey Visitor Information Centre - Pacific Hwy, South Kempsey
- ♦ Kempsey Shire Council Caravan Parks at Grassy Head, Stuarts Point, Hat Head and Crescent Head
- ♦ Rocks Marine Bait & Tackle - 100 Gregory St, South West Rocks
- ♦ Hat Head General Store - 24 Straight St, Hat Head

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL:-

- ♦ Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Offices at Port Macquarie, Wauchope & Laurieton
- ♦ Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre - cnr Gordon & Gore Sts, Port Macquarie
- ♦ Dunbogan Boatshed - 46 The Boulevard, Dunbogan
- ♦ Kew Visitor Information Centre - Pacific Highway, Kew

Under arrangement between the Councils, applicants will be required to obtain a beach access permit from the Council serving the area in which they reside.

Permits are issued on a financial year basis, i.e. 1st July to 30th June with the concession that permits issued on or after Easter each year shall be current until 30th June the following year.

It is an offence carrying a **\$110 on-the-spot fine** to drive on any beach (except at boat launching sites) without a current beach driving permit.

- ♦ The permit holders must ensure that the sticker is displayed as required - breach of this policy carries a **\$110 on-the-spot fine**.
- ♦ Applicants for permits must furnish a copy of the current certificate of registration of the motor vehicle concerned as proof of compulsory third party insurance cover. Permits will not be issued in respect of unregistered vehicles.
- ♦ Drivers of permitted vehicles are required to observe the directions of any honorary ranger appointed by the councils or any authorised council officers or NP & W Officers as well as directions of members of beach patrols.

Drivers of permitted vehicles are required to observe the safety of other beach users including bathers, pedestrians and persons sunbathing. The councils may at any time revoke a permit without notice should adverse reports be confirmed.

The proceeds from permits will be allocated towards the management of the policy - improved signposting, separate access tracks for vehicles and pedestrians.

Prohibited and restricted areas

The following maps indicate the beaches where prohibitions and restrictions apply and the locations of approved access points and boat launching facilities.

Any person contravening these restrictions will be considered to be in breach of the Recreational Vehicles Act 1983 which provides for **penalties** of up to **\$500**, or the Local Government Act 1993 which provides for **penalties** of up to **\$550**. **On-the-spot fines** of **\$110** may also be issued. The councils reserve the right to withdraw the beach driving permit from vehicles found in breach of the policy.

