



ISSUE 5
SEPT - OCT 2011

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NORTHERN BEACHES BULLETIN

Andrew Cripps MP **State Member for Hinchinbrook**
Proudly Representing Townsville's Northern Beaches

OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLING STRATEGY

Last year an issue was drawn to my attention by concerned landowners on the Northern Beaches about trespassing on private property by people on quad bikes and motor bikes. I encouraged residents to report instances of trespass to the police. Of course, this relates to instances of trespass only, not to people riding quad bikes and motor bikes lawfully for recreation or sport.

Trespassing on private property is against the law. There are real safety and liability issues involved. People who ride motor bikes and quad bikes responsibly and lawfully are not the issue. However, some residents raised the legitimate issue with me that there were limited locations in the area where people could ride quad bikes and motor bikes lawfully and safely.

As it turns out, problems associated with off road motorcycling activities, such as trespassing, noise and dust, are not unique to Townsville's Northern Beaches. Off road motorcycling is a legitimate recreational activity and sport, enjoyed by many people in the community. There is a need to provide a way for Queenslanders to pursue this activity safely and lawfully.

The issue has been widely discussed by many communities across the state, so the Department of Communities (Sport and Recreation Services) have developed the [Queensland Off-road Motorcycling Management Strategy](#) to help the State Government, local Councils and local communities work together to better manage off road motorcycling activities, specifically in relation to enforcement of legislation.

The strategy covers recreational and competitive off-road motorcycling on two, three and four-wheeled motorcycles. I encourage anyone interested in the strategy to access a copy on the following website:

<http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/Recreation/TrafficManagement/OffRoadMotorcyclingManagementStrategy.aspx>

VEHICLES ON BEACHES

Driving on beaches is a popular activity in North Queensland for boating, fishing, camping and exploring. However, some beaches, including on Townsville's Northern Beaches, are under increasing pressure from vehicle use. Some public safety concerns are also being reported.

The Coastal Vehicle Management Steering Committee, including representatives from the State and Federal Governments, Townsville City Council, NQ Dry Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, have put together a useful guide to driving on beaches, which covers, 4WDs, quad bikes and motorbikes.

Cont over.....

Your Electoral Enrolment Details - Do They Need To Be Updated?

With a State election to be held within the next six months, it is time to consider whether your enrolment details are up-to-date. I encourage you to ensure that your enrolment is up-to-date, as by doing so, you are ensuring that you can cast your vote at the next election. Enrolment details can be checked by logging onto the Australian Electoral Commission website www.aec.gov.au or the Queensland Electoral Commission website www.ecq.qld.gov.au.

Address & name changes can be done online and you can also check in which electorate you are enrolled. If you do not have access to a computer changes can be made by filling out an Enrolment Details Form which is available by contacting my office. My office contact details are listed above. If you want to make your voice heard at the next election – you need to ensure you are able to vote by having your enrolment up to date.

While the guide recognises driving on beaches is a popular recreational activity, enabling locals and visitors alike to view the great scenery and enjoy the natural environment in North Queensland, it is important to understand driving a 4WD, quad bike or trail bike inappropriately on a beach can damage the environment and pose a safety risk to other beach users.

It is important to know what you are legally allowed to do when driving on beaches and how best to reduce potential hazards. The link below will lead you to a webpage that contains a list of publications, where you can download a copy of the [Vehicles on Our Beaches](#) guide under the heading "Coastal and Marine".

<http://www.nqdrytropicals.com.au/publications-topic>

Although the guide goes into more detail, I have picked out the following dot points as some of the more important ones for people to be aware of:

- Beaches are considered roads and normal road rules apply;
- Carry your license and proof of vehicle registration;
- Drive slowly and carefully;
- Wear your seat belt;
- Drive between the high and low water marks on firmer sand;
- Give way to wildlife and pedestrians;
- Watch for beach hazards such as rocks, pools of water and washouts;
- Avoid driving on beaches at night;
- Avoid disturbing wildlife, including bird and turtle nesting areas and take care not to damage any beach vegetation;
- Carry your rubbish home.

Following these guidelines should minimise damage to the environment or any public safety concerns and allow continued access by vehicles to beaches for appropriate recreational activities.

FIRE RISKS

Due to the extended dry weather and the increased fire risk across the State, including on the Northern Beaches at the moment, the Commissioner of the Queensland Fire & Rescue Service (QFRS) has issued a notification under section 63 of the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*, declaring a Fire Danger Period (FDP) from midnight 4 September 2011, to midnight 1 January 2012. This is a good opportunity for all Northern Beaches Residents to assess the fire preparedness of their family and their home.

The declaration of a FDP across the State means that anyone wanting to light a fire of less than 2m in any direction during the FDP, will need to obtain a Permit from their local QFRS Station (in urban areas), or from their local Fire Warden (rural areas). **Please note that while an FDP is NOT a FIRE BAN, permits for even small vegetation fires are required.** Northern Beaches residents in the Hinchinbrook electorate south of the Black River (Mt Low, Bushland Beach, Burdell and North Shore) can contact the QFRS directly.

Fire Warden Contacts for Northern Beaches residents in rural areas north of the Black River are listed below:

Black River No 1 (West of Highway)	(07) 47786357
Black River No 2 (East of Highway)	(07) 47889201
Saunders Beach	(07) 47786677
Toolakea	(07) 47886384
Purono Park	0427786672
Bluewater	(07) 47886329
Bluewater Estate (Deputy Fire Warden)	(07) 47513311
Ollera Creek	0429708130
Rollingstone	(07) 47707348
Crystal Creek	0417757402
Herveys Range	(07) 47880012

This is also a good opportunity for residents in rural areas on the Northern Beaches of Townsville to consider the importance of their local Rural Fire Service brigade, which is made up of very dedicated local volunteers. I would like to thank our Rural Fire Service volunteers and recognise the great work that they do for our local communities. Rural Fire Service brigades are always looking for new volunteers to help keep the community safe. They provide a very important community service. I am sure that any support you can offer your local Rural Fire Service brigade, as a volunteer or otherwise, would be greatly appreciated.