

# Helpful hints for driving in Queensland

Queensland has a variety of diverse landscapes to explore, from tropical rainforests to sandy beaches and the outback. While these offer unique experiences, they also offer unique driving conditions that always must be considered. Remember, care should be taken at all times and always drive to prevailing conditions.

## Safe driving tips

- » Observe speed limit signs, always consider the conditions and adjust your speed to suit.
- » Two seconds is the recommended minimum following distance when driving a car in ideal driving conditions.
- » Always wear your seatbelt correctly. A seatbelt worn incorrectly could cause neck, chest or abdominal injuries in a crash and won't be able to protect you as it's designed to do.

## Driving in wet conditions

- » Double your stopping distance to allow for greater reaction and stopping time.
- » Ensure you have good tread on your tyres.
- » Check road conditions with local police or the RACQ.
- » Don't attempt to cross flooded bridges or causeways unless you are sure of the water depth and the road's condition.
- » Turn on your vehicle's lights to increase your visibility to others.

## Driving through water

- » If you drive through water, dry the brakes out by driving slowly with your foot on the brake pedal for a short distance.
- » Always obey signs closing roads to traffic for your own safety.
- » If the road is flooded, do not attempt to cross. Wait until the level drops or use an alternative route. The force of flood water could sweep your vehicle away.

## Driving on sandy surfaces

- » Drive a 4WD and deflate your tyres.
- » Carry an air pump, jack and shovel.
- » Load your vehicle correctly with the heaviest items stored low. Vehicles with too much stored on roof racks can overturn.
- » Vehicle permits are required on most beaches. Visit the Department of Environment and Resource Management for more information on permits and beach driving tips and restrictions at [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au).

## Driving on unsealed roads

- » Be wary of varying surfaces such as gravel, sand or dirt, decrease your speed and increase your following distance behind the vehicle in front.
- » Don't take risks. If a dust cloud affects your ability to see clearly, stop and wait for the dust to settle.
- » Turn on the vehicle's lights to increase your visibility to others.

## Sharing the road with heavy vehicles

- » When you overtake a truck, don't cut in front of it and limit its braking space – trucks need extra room to corner and brake.
- » If a vehicle displays a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign it is legally allowed to take up more than one lane to turn.
- » If you cannot see the driver in a large vehicle's side mirrors, than the driver may not be able to see you.
- » Be considerate of heavy vehicles and share the road.

## Overtaking a road train

- » Expect the long vehicle to stay on the sealed road.
- » Flash your lights to warn the driver that you plan to overtake.
- » Allow at least 1km of clear road ahead.
- » Beware of soft shoulders, guide posts and wildlife on the roadside as you overtake.

## When towing

- » Allow one extra second following distance for each three metres of the caravan or trailer in ideal driving conditions.
- » Allow for the extra trailer length and width when entering traffic.
- » Apply the accelerator and brakes, and steer smoothly to avoid sway, especially in wet or slippery conditions.
- » Allow for the increased effects of crosswinds, passing vehicles and uneven road surfaces.
- » Allow more time and distance to overtake.
- » Pull off the road where possible to avoid build-up of traffic unable to overtake.

**For more tips and information on travelling Queensland and the Driver Reviver operational dates and times, visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/triplanning](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/triplanning).**