

## VEHICLES ON BEACHES GENERAL POLICY

### **Intent**

- To outline the circumstances in which it may be necessary or reasonable to issue an approval under Subordinate Local Law 1 (Administration) for the bringing or driving of motor vehicles onto beaches or beach related areas.
- To preserve a high standard of safety and enjoyment of persons using beaches in the Douglas Shire.

### **Scope**

This policy is applicable to all beaches and beach related areas within the Douglas Shire.

### **Reference**

Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011  
Subordinate Local Law No. 1 – Schedule 26

### **Provisions**

- Douglas Shire Council recognises that the driving of vehicles on beaches is a popular activity for people wanting to conduct activities such as beach clean ups, launch boats and access remote fishing areas.
- Douglas Shire Council is committed to ensuring that resources are sustainably managed so that the lifestyle of the community and the environment are preserved.
- Motor vehicle use on beaches or beach related areas should not interfere with pedestrian traffic, the conduct of business, the peaceful enjoyment of private property or contribute to a lack of safety.

### **Definitions**

**Vehicle:** As defined in the Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010

### **Obtaining an Approval**

Application for an approval consistent with the provisions of this policy and under *Subordinate Local Law 1, Schedule 25 – Bringing or driving motor vehicles onto local government controlled areas* must be made on the approved form, and be accompanied by payment of the required fee. Application for an approval will only be accepted in person and each applicant may only apply for a permit for himself/herself.

Criteria for assessing an application, may include, but not be limited to:

#### Special Approval

- An approval may be issued to the holder of a Disabled Parking Permit.
- Only the vehicle nominated on the approval is to be driven on the beach. A full description of the vehicle, including a colour photograph, must be submitted for approval.
- Details of the owner of the vehicle are to be provided as part of the application, if the holder of the Disabled Parking Permit is a passenger in the vehicle.

### Event or Other Approval

- Approvals will be considered as ancillary to any other approval that may be considered under Local Law or other legislation e.g. Iron Man, Great Barrier Reef Marathon. No further approval will be required.
- This includes, but may not be limited to, beach clean up activities conducted by an approved entity e.g. Tangaroa Blue

### Emergency Services, Douglas Shire Council or contractors conducting works on behalf of Council

- Emergency service vehicles, Douglas Shire Council vehicles or equipment, or contractor vehicles or equipment working on behalf of Council will not require an additional approval.

### Limited Recreational Use – Wonga Beach

- Limited recreational use will only be permitted on the area of beach north of the Giblin Street access at Wonga Beach.
- Only residents of Wonga Beach will be eligible for an approval. Proof must be provided by producing a provisional or full driver's licence with the applicants current residential address clearly visible.
- Only the vehicle nominated on the approval is to be driven on the beach. A full description of the vehicle, including a colour photograph, must be submitted for approval.
- Two (2) wheeled vehicles such as trail bikes, will not be considered for approval.

### **Conditions**

- The vehicle is not to be driven above the high tide mark, except when travelling to and from the beach.
- Under no circumstances is the vehicle to be driven on or over frontal dunes or foreshore areas not designated as access points.
- Vehicles must not be driven by persons under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs. The QLD Police Service will be notified where an authorised officer reasonably believes this is occurring.
- Vehicles are to be driven only in the area specified on the approval.
- The maximum speed limit at any time is 20kph.
- Only the vehicle nominated on the approval is to be driven on the beach.
- Vehicles must give way at all times to pedestrians and wildlife.
- Approval holders will be issued an approval identification sticker which must be visible on the vehicle at all times.
- Approval holders must only access the beach at the designated access points. Vehicles that cannot be registered and legally driven on a road must be transported by utility or trailer to the designated access point.
- Approval holders operating quad bikes or side-by-side vehicles must wear an approved motorbike helmet and not carry a passenger unless on a seat designated for that purpose.
- Approval holders must at all times carry their drivers licence when conducting the activity and provide to an authorised officer, on request.

This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Manager Responsible for Review:

Manager Sustainable Communities

ADOPTED: 28/08/2018  
DUE FOR REVISION: 28/08/2021  
REVOKED/SUPERSEDED: