

# 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. For example, some outback roads are only narrow bitumen and care is needed when passing other vehicles. Overtaking opportunities on these sections are limited and drivers need to be patient. Remember, extreme care should be taken at all times and always drive to prevailing conditions.

## Driving in wet conditions

- » Ensure you have good tread on your tyres.
- » Observe speed limit signs.
- » Double your following distance to allow for greater reaction and stopping time.
- » Postpone your trip on unsealed roads until the road surface has stabilised.
- » 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 the vehicle's lights to increase your visibility to others.

## Driving on sandy surfaces

- » Drive a 4WD.
- » Deflate your tyres.
- » Carry an air pump, jack and shovel.

## Driving in dusty conditions

- » Don't take risks. Stop and wait for the dust to settle.
- » Turn on the vehicle's lights to increase your visibility to others.

## Driving outside city and town limits

- » Reduce speed before nearing the road edge as road shoulders on outback roads are often soft and may not support your vehicle's weight. Beware of edge dropoffs and loose stones.
- » Look out for wildlife and straying stock, especially at night, sunrise and sunset. Avoid swerving to miss animals. Instead reduce speed and beep the horn to alert animals.
- » Plan to reach your destination by 4pm if driving in a westerly direction. Many outback roads have an east-west orientation, and driving when facing the setting sun can reduce clear vision.

## 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.

## Driving with trucks

- » When overtaking a truck, do not cut in front of it and take away its braking space – trucks are larger and need extra room to turn corners and to brake.

## When towing

- » Leave a longer stopping distance to the vehicle ahead.
- » Allow for the extra length and width of a trailer when entering traffic.
- » Apply the accelerator, 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.

## Also be aware of . . .

- » Cyclists.
- » Pedestrians.
- » Train crossings, including cane trains.