

A DAY AT THE BEACH

INFORMATION SHEET

Here in Livingstone Shire, we are lucky to enjoy a beautiful coastline right on our doorstep. A day at the beach is a great way to relax and unwind with family and friends.

Here are some tips and suggestions to ensure you enjoy your time at the beach in an environmentally friendly, sustainable way.

KEEP OUR BEACHES CLEAN

Make sure you take all your rubbish with you when you leave the beach. Plastic does not decompose, meaning any plastic that ends up in the ocean will be there forever. Plastic and other litter is dangerous to marine life as well as the plants and animals that live and nest on the coastline.

Picking up any litter you see on the beach, not just your own, is a great way to help keep our coastlines clean and wildlife safe. Try to pick up at least three pieces of litter every time you go to the beach - more if you find it!

4WD TIPS

There is only one beach in Livingstone Shire where driving is permitted (a section on Farnborough beach). On some other beaches, driving is permitted for the purpose of launching a boat. If you plan to drive on a beach, make sure you:

- Never drive on a beach unless there is signage stating you can do so and a clearly marked, safe access available.
- Do not drive on sand dunes. Dunes provide a crucial barrier between the ocean and properties, roads, and other assets. They are also essential habitat and nesting areas for many coastal birds and animals. Driving on dunes causes serious damage to them and increases erosion. Stay away from dunes if you drive on the beach.



- Watch for animals. Many animals, including several species of turtle, live and nest on beaches in Livingstone Shire. Keep an eye on Council's social media for information about turtle nesting and other important updates on Coastal wildlife. Turtle hatchlings are extremely vulnerable - avoid driving on beaches where nests been found.

IF YOU FIND AN INJURED ANIMAL

Any animals found injured or unwell on a beach should be reported to the RSPCA on **1300 264 625**. This is a 24-hour emergency hotline.

If it is safe to move the animal out of harm's way (e.g. away from an encroaching tide), and you are physically able to, you may do so. If it is not safe, or you are unsure, talk to the operator at RSPCA about what you should do while you wait for help.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

If you are keen to support the coastal environment in other ways, why not get involved in a Citizen Science project?

Citizen Science gives everyone an opportunity to be involved in monitoring the environment so decision makers have enough

information to support our coastline. You don't need to be a scientist to take part - for most programs, all you need is a smartphone and the right attitude!

Council is installing a number of permanent photo points along Livingstone Shire's Coast - head to livingstone.qld.gov.au/coast_and_catchments for more information about Citizen Science programs.

MORE INFORMATION

Council has information on our coast, catchments, and the wider environment available online at <https://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/living-here/my-environment>.

You can also contact Council directly for more information:

Email: NRM@livingstone.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 4913 5000

