



MIDCOAST
council



GUIDELINES FOR SHARING THE SHORE

The MidCoast region is blessed with unspoilt, expansive beaches that can be enjoyed by walking, swimming or four-wheel driving.

Beach environments are sensitive and dynamic. Many are home to endangered shorebirds and ecological communities, and Aboriginal significant sites.

We all have a responsibility to protect other beach users and the environment. This includes the protection of shorebird habitats and the ecological and physical integrity of the sensitive dune environment.

It's called sharing the shore!

Beach-nesting birds are some of the most threatened birds in the world.

Endangered Beach Stone-curlews, Pied Oystercatchers and Little Terns use our beaches for nesting. Their numbers are in decline as they struggle to find undisturbed space on beaches to nest and raise a family.

The Eastern Curlew makes the long journey each year from the northern hemisphere to find space to feed on our beaches.



Little Tern, Endangered NSW



Eastern Curlew, Critically Endangered Commonwealth



Pied Oystercatcher, Vulnerable NSW



Beach Stone-curlew, Critically Endangered NSW



Tiny chicks are hard to see. It takes up to 11 weeks before they can fly out of harm's way.

Camouflaged eggs and chicks are at high risk from trampling, or getting eaten or crushed by dogs and vehicles. Disturbances by people and their pets on beaches can be lethal, with scared birds leaving their eggs to overheat or abandoning their nests altogether.

See over for tips on sharing the shore.

DRIVING ON BEACHES



If you're a 4WD enthusiast looking to explore our unspoilt coastline, you'll need a valid Beach Vehicle Permit which allows you access to designated areas on our beaches.

Visit www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/beachpermit for details on how to obtain a permit, accessible areas (and those that are prohibited), and rules for beach driving.

Driving outside permitted areas and above high tide lines can disturb nesting birds, and may destroy eggs or chicks.



DOGS ON BEACHES

Your dog is welcome on or off-leash on many beaches across the region, however dog exclusion zones are in place in National and some State parks, in areas of environmental sensitivity and in all shorebird breeding sites.

These include Old Bar State Park through to Farquhar Park, Winda Woppa and the area north of Manning Point 4WD entry.

Visit our website for information about dogs on beaches, and observe signage around nesting zones. A general rule of thumb is to keep your dog on its leash until you have examined the area carefully to ensure there are no nesting zones or wildlife that may be impacted by their presence.

TIPS TO SHARE THE SHORE

- Observe "No Entry" areas including fenced beach-nesting bird sites
- Always drive below the high tide line, and only on 4WD permitted beaches
- Eggs are invisible from a car - so don't drive through fencing, even if broken by others
- Keep dogs away from nesting sites, and only walk dogs on designated beaches
- Pick up discarded fishing line; take all litter with you
- Birds in sight? If a bird takes flight as you approach, you're too close
- Walk close to the water to reduce your chance of trampling on chicks or eggs

Rangers patrol our beaches and penalties apply for driving on beaches without a current permit, for unauthorised entry to shorebird breeding areas or areas under rehabilitation, and for dogs in exclusion zones.

Be aware, share the shore. Help us protect our shorebirds.