

## OFF ROAD VEHICLES AND THE LAW

In 1978 the state government introduced the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road areas) Act*. This law empowered local governments to designate certain areas as permitted off-road areas, to ensure off-road vehicles were safe and registered for off-road use. It was also to enhance the enjoyment of residents by limiting areas of use and stopping certain activities by off-road vehicle users.

The law applies to any non road registered vehicle being used within any permitted or prohibited area. Sections of the Road Traffic Act apply to any sealed or unsealed road and the Local Government Act deals with vehicles in public areas anywhere in the shire such as parks, footpaths, reserves and beaches.

It also outlines who is authorised to administer the requirements of the Act. In the City of Karratha this responsibility is given to the City Rangers and the local Police.

In 1986 the Shire of Roebourne set up two off-road permitted areas. One is off the eastern end of Millstream Rd Karratha near the old quarry and mud flats and the other is at the far end of Millars Rd Karratha behind the airport.

Although the law may seem restrictive to some, it was written to ensure that everybody has the freedom to enjoy off-road vehicles without imposing on the freedoms of the public in general. It also safeguards the wellbeing and safety of the public and users.

A copy of the Act and its regulations can be obtained from the State Law Publishers by calling 08 9426 0000 or via the website at

[www.slp.wa.gov.au/Index.html](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/Index.html)

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM CAUGHT?

If you are found to be breaking the law you may be issued with a warning, a fine or you may be prosecuted. The officer may also seize your vehicle if you;

- Are in a prohibited area and have no registration and ID.
- You continue to use an off road vehicle contrary to the Act.
- The officer may seize a vehicle from a public place or enter your property if you are seen committing an offence.
- It may be seized for up to 12 months.

If you are given an order, the vehicle maybe impounded until you comply with the order. The order maybe given for you to prove ownership of the vehicle, have it registered or make the vehicle safe.

**“Our aim is to enhance the safety and security of our community through public education, liaison, awareness and if required, enforcement”**

**City of Karratha  
Ranger Services**

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# Information for Off-road Vehicle Users

## RANGER SERVICES



## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- Wear a suitable protective helmet, clothing and protective gear.
- Everybody must wear a seatbelt if fitted.
- Carry plenty of water and some food.
- Ride with others and look after your mates.
- Make sure all lights are working. If you have no lights stop riding before dusk.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Make sure your vehicle is safe and usable.
- Keep to defined tracks and leave the area as you find it.
- Take your rubbish home with you.
- Push or trailer your bike to the permitted areas or outside the prohibited areas. Don't ride from home
- Have your bike registered as an off-road vehicle at the DPI Karratha.
- Have your off-road rego plate fitted to the rear.
- Carry some ID and your rego papers
- Stop when requested by Police or Rangers.
- Gain approval from any private landowner and carry that approval with you.
- Obey any signage or direction.
- Unless you and the vehicle are licensed to be on the road keep off any road, sealed or not.
- Be aware of blind spots and low visibility in dust and some sunlight.
- Be courteous to other riders, pedestrians and others using the area.
- Make sure any rider is over 8 years old.

## REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Do the right thing and follow these guidelines. Report anyone causing grief or giving other riders a bad name. If we know where they live we can make them aware of the situation at their home.

## WHERE CAN I RIDE?

If you comply with the conditions of the law and the requirements of any private property owner, you can ride an off-road vehicle on:

- **Private property** – With the land owner's permission.
- **Off-road areas** – Marked in green on the map above:
  - East (Off Millstream Rd).
  - West (At end of Millars Rd).
- **Unallocated land** - Outside of the yellow line on the map above.
- **Off-road clubs** – At M/C, MX or off-road club venues.

## WHERE IS OFF LIMITS?

**INSIDE** the yellow line on the map above in:

- Public areas and public open space.
- Reserves, parks, beaches, dunes.
- Any drainage area or ditch.
- Any road sealed or unsealed.
- Verges, footpaths or car parks,

**OUTSIDE** the yellow line on the map above in:

- Hearson Cove, Cossack and Pt Samson
- Anywhere signposted "No Vehicles"
- Reserves, parks, beaches, dunes.
- Any drainage area or ditch.
- Any road sealed or unsealed.
- Verges, footpaths or car parks,
- Private property without consent.