

Sea turtles

Ancient mariners in danger

Sea turtles once swam with dinosaurs.

Now they swim with us — our boats, our bait bags, our cigarette butts, our fertilizers ...

Can they survive?



Loggerheads are an endangered species.

Become informed so you can help ...

Six of the world's seven sea turtle species live in Australian waters — most within the Great Sandy region. Some use the area as a home base. Others travel up to thousands of kilometers to nest here.

On shore

The journey to nest

Loggerhead and green turtles are the most common nesters in this region. Wary females travel up the beach to lay eggs. If disturbed by lights and movement, they return to the sea without nesting. Mon Repos is a great place to watch hatching and nesting turtles from mid-November to March.



Hatchlings endangered ...

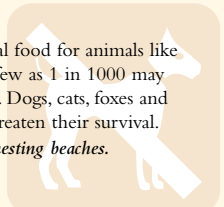
by your lights

Hatchlings are guided to sea by the horizon. Campfires, street, house, and other lights confuse them.

Switch off unnecessary lights.

by your dogs

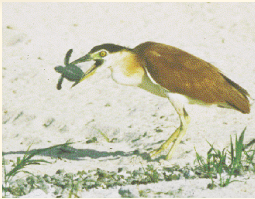
Hatchlings are a natural food for animals like herons and sharks. As few as 1 in 1000 may reach maturity. Dogs, cats, foxes and pigs further threaten their survival. *Keep pets off nesting beaches.*



by beach driving

Cars may compact sand above nests, trapping hatchlings.

Don't drive above high water mark.



In the water ...

Turtles need a healthy environment with lots of food and few pollutants. Deaths occur for many reasons.

Throw nothing overboard ...

Turtles can mistake rubbish for food, blocking their intestines.

Resting not stranded

Adult turtles sometimes bask on shore. *If uninjured, they do not need help.*



Fishing tackle can entangle and strangle turtles.



Go slow for those below!

High-speed boats in shallow water can injure or kill turtles and damage their food — seagrass, soft corals and sponges.

Trawlers can use TEDS

These devices reduce turtle capture and increase trawling efficiency.



What else can you do?

Help us trace the life story of local turtles and aid their conservation.

Report on: **1300 360 898**



Dead Turtles



Tag numbers



Nesting sites



Unusual sightings

eg. in creeks, swimming strangely

Want to know more? Want to be involved? Contact your local QPWS office.



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