

Responsible Recreation

in Queensland's Plantation Forests

For drivers and motorbike riders

Plantations in State Forests in Queensland are becoming increasingly popular as a destination for recreation. To ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time, visitors are reminded that in addition to being in a working forest, they are in a public place and must behave responsibly and obey the law.

Although many of the roads in the plantations are privately owned, drivers and riders are still subject to the same rules and regulations as any other public road, as well as additional requirements under the Forestry Act.

Here is a quick rundown of the rules to enjoy the pine plantations responsibly.



Drivers and riders must be licensed

Anyone operating a motor vehicle, including a motorbike, must have the appropriate licence. Children under 18 cannot ride motorbikes in the plantations because they are not licensed.

Examples of unlicensed operation – driving a motor vehicle without a licence, riding a motorbike without an R or RE licence (including children and youths too young for a licence), driving or riding with a suspended or cancelled licence.

Vehicles must be registered and roadworthy

All motor vehicles, including motorbikes, must be fully registered and roadworthy. Conditionally registered vehicles are not permitted.

Examples of vehicles that are illegal in the plantations – registered but unroadworthy vehicles, unregistered or illegally modified vehicles, unregistered motorbikes (including kids' bikes), conditionally registered vehicles, all terrain vehicles or quad bikes, side-by-sides (SxS, UTV, ROV, MOHUV) and lawn mowers.



Queensland road rules apply

The usual road rules apply to all roads in the pine plantations in State Forests, even if they are privately owned and maintained, and driver and riders must drive or ride to the conditions.

Examples of activities that are illegal – driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, speeding, hooning, excessive or unnecessary swerving or turning, losing control of your vehicle, not wearing a seatbelt in a moving vehicle, operating a mobile device while driving.

Drive or ride responsibly on formed roads only

Pine plantations are not 4WD adventure parks or motocross circuits and vehicles are required to remain on formed road at all times. Formed roads are the maintained roads around compartments of plantation trees that are constructed for through traffic and have drainage. Tracks through the plantations are not formed roads. Damaging roads is vandalism and causes erosion and sedimentation that affects local waterways.

Examples of behaviour that is illegal – driving or riding off-road or on features that are not roads; driving or riding on powerline corridors, fire breaks or tracks that aren't formed roads (including single track); making tracks, trails, berms or circuits; driving through creeks or rivers; driving through mud or widening roads by driving around mud; damaging roads and trees as a result of driving behaviour or vehicle recovery.





Be alert for forest operations

Pine plantations are working forests and worksites can be extremely hazardous, even if you can't see any machinery operating. Signs are erected for your safety to warn you about upcoming hazards. You must turn around when you see DO NOT PROCEED signs or DANGER signs. It is an offence to remove or vandalise signs, as well as fences or gates, at work sites.

Check for weather closures

Sometimes during or after extreme weather, particularly heavy rain, the pine plantations are closed for your safety. It is your responsibility to check there are no closures in place before visiting. Details about closures are posted on the HQPlantations website at www.hqplantations.com.au/closures



Get a permit if required

Permits are required for groups of five or more vehicles or motorbikes regardless of how the group gets together (if you arranged to meet at a particular time or place it's an 'organised' group), as well as for commercial filming or photography, and for events – even if it's for charity. For more information about permits visit www.hqplantations.com.au/permits or phone 07 5438 6666.

Don't light fires or obstruct fire fighting access

Fires in the plantations put forest workers, visitors, neighbours and neighbouring communities at risk. Camp fires are not permitted in the pine plantations at anytime of the year and smokers should take their cigarette butts with them. Be careful not to block fire tracks when parking or leaving your vehicle.



Take your rubbish with you

Littering and dumping is illegal. It is a blight on the natural landscape and creates a hazard for other forest visitors and workers or volunteers who clean it up.

Examples of activities that are illegal – discarding any litter or waste including food, bottles, paper, plastic, furniture, white goods, electronics, building materials, hazardous waste, tyres, green waste, etc.

Please report suspicious behaviour

If you see suspicious behaviour, record when and where you saw it and what the person or vehicle was doing and report it to Policelink on 131 444 or report anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. For emergencies requiring immediate attention, including if you see smoke, call 000.

