

Coorong beach open

Vehicle access along the beach in the Coorong National Park will be opened from this Friday, 3 October 2008.

A section of the beach three kilometres north of 42 Mile Crossing to the Murray Mouth was closed in July this year to ensure public safety, as severe wave action had created dangerous driving conditions.

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) made the decision to open the beach after an assessment of the area this week.

DEH District Ranger Simon Oster said the beach profile had levelled out, sand had compacted, and severe wave action has eased, resulting in improved and safer driving conditions.

Despite the improvement in conditions, Mr Oster reminded people to take care when driving along the Coorong Ocean Beach.

"Although the profile of the beach has levelled out since the winter, extreme high tides have left steep embankments on the face of the foredune, making vehicle access above the high water mark difficult," he said.

"To ensure vehicles do not become trapped on incoming tides, we advise people planning to drive along the Coorong Ocean Beach to make sure they are aware of tide times and tidal movements.

"A high level of caution and experience in beach driving is required to ensure a safe and trouble free trip along the Ocean Beach.

"Drivers need to be aware that changing beach conditions may cause sand tracks to become extremely difficult to drive on, and that driving after dark and towing are not recommended.

"Visitors to the Coorong National Park are reminded that vehicles are only permitted to travel on designated vehicle access tracks and on the beach. Driving on or behind foredunes is prohibited."

For further information, please contact the DEH Coorong and Lakes District Office on 8575 1200.

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