

## FROM THE COAST

### Driving Safely this Easter long weekend

With the Easter long-weekend just around the corner it's a good time to remember to look after our beautiful coastline. It's great to be able to drive onto the beach and spend the day there, but our actions can impact the safety of others and the environment.

It is great to be able to enjoy the natural beauty Esperance has to offer, especially driving down the beach to your favourite spot, but the road rules still apply while driving off road. Motor vehicles still need to be registered when driving on a beach or open space unless it's private property and with the consent of the owner.

The Duke is a beautiful part of our coast and is popular with locals and visitors from all around Australia and abroad. Esperance Police will be enforcing road policing in this area during the Easter long weekend, and Parks and Wildlife will also be conducting targeted patrols.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for signage outlining regulations. If you are in one of our spectacular National Parks remember you are not allowed to bring dogs - this is to protect our unique native wildlife.

I've always enjoyed spending time camping in the great outdoors with family, but if you are spending your long weekend camping please camp in a designated camp spot and dispose of your rubbish correctly, that way everyone can appreciate what these spots have to offer.

Don't forget you still need to have a designated driver if you have a few drinks over lunch at the beach. Esperance Police have advised they will be conducting breath tests over the weekend. Esperance Police want to make sure there are no serious crashes over the long weekend and ensure holiday makers and residents have a safe and relaxing time.

The Shire of Esperance RoadWise Committee works with the local police to promote and educate road safety. This week concludes the Blow Zero campaign which rewarded drivers for good driver behaviour, encouraging people not to drink and drive. Esperance Police have breath tested over 800 drivers in the weeks leading up to Easter, and only three drivers have been charged with drink driving.

This Thursday at 7am the community is invited to the 'Blessing of the Roads' event to reflect on those who have died or been seriously injured in a road crash and to raise road safety awareness. We hope to see you there.