



Press Release

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Status: Approved

Date: 5 September 2018

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SUBJECT: Doctored Photo and Misleading Information in Article to Ban 4WDs from Beaches and National Parks - Sunshine Coast Daily

A senior environmental academic from the University of Sunshine Coast has been spending over a decade "investigating" the effects of driving 4WD vehicles on our state beaches, concluding they are destroying wildlife in extreme numbers.

Article Link 1:

- <https://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/time-has-come-should-4wds-be-banned-from-national-/3511838/>

Article Link 2:

- <https://www.pressreader.com/australia/sunshine-coast-daily/20180905/281702615594334>



IN DANGER: Professor Thomas Schlacher says this photo shows the effects four-wheel-drives are having on national parks.



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In the latest article published today by Sunshine Coast Daily, the researcher states "too often native birds were killed by four-wheel-drives "pummelling" down the beach", and the researcher provided the news agency with a picture of a dead "crested tern" laying on the wet sand. On examining the picture of the dead bird, it is clear to see the carcass is water-logged, the tide had removed sand from under and around the dead bird, yet the fresh tire tracks had not been removed by the out-going tide. 4WD Queensland is of the opinion this photo has been staged and is a misrepresented claim that a 4WD vehicle killed this animal, and purposely provided to news agencies to raise false claims.

In an earlier 2008 article on ABC Catalyst, it is claimed by the same researcher "On any given day 250,000 cars travel up and down this beach" and "... they're dying by the billion under the wheels of our recreational vehicles". 4WD Queensland is also of the opinion that a quarter of a million 4WDs travelling "daily" on one beach in a 10-year-old article is also misinforming.

ABC Catalyst 2008 Link:

- <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/2239409.htm>

4WD Queensland is the peak body for the state 4WDing community, and our affiliated clubs and members do an outstanding job through our environmental CARE program. Additionally, our clubs undertake "adopt a track" programs with local parks and forests, and the 4WD Association has been running the Fraser Island Clean Up (FICU) activity over the last 18 years, removing hundreds of tons of rubbish washed ashore over this time period.

The association does not take lightly to misrepresentation of research and information pertaining to our 4WD community. 4WD Queensland has recently re-signed a new Collaborative Agreement with the Queensland Government in order to work together on activities which are in the interested of both the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service department, and our 4WD clubs and members. Studies which misrepresent our good work, without any communication or engagement with 4WD Queensland are undermining the good work of our community and members.



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4WD Queensland welcomes engagement and communications with researchers, news agencies and government departments, to ensure collaboration and reports are meeting factual outcomes and are in the true interests of the community.

===== PRESS RELEASE ENDS =====

ABOUT FOUR WHEEL DRIVE QUEENSLAND

Four Wheel Drive Queensland (4WD QLD) was formed in 1976 when members from various 4WD clubs across Queensland, got together in an effort to unite the voice of four wheel drivers in promoting recreational four wheel driving.

Although 4WD QLD predominately seeks to promote the requirements and interests of our affiliated clubs and their members, as the peak 4WD motoring body in QLD, we also represent the interests of all 4WD owners and operators throughout the state, when common issues benefit or tarnish both the association and general 4WDing community