

Broken windscreen

Most modern vehicles are fitted with laminated glass, so a windscreen will only 'crack' under impact however, if the glass shatters and you can't see, slow down and use another way to see ahead, such as opening the side window and looking out, gently put your foot on the brake to warn following traffic that you are about to stop. Stop off the road or as close to the left side of the road as you can with safety. A small windscreen chip may be temporarily repaired with a windscreen repair kit available at Auto shops.

Flat tyre

Flat tyres go with territory when driving on gravel roads, being prepared will make handling these events much easier. It's important to know that many areas in the Barrington Tops / Gloucester region do not have mobile phone coverage. If you have a flat tyre you may not be able to phone the NRMA to provide assistance. Knowing how to change a tyre, and or using 'Tyre Sealant' or having a 'Tyre Repair Kit' in the car may make dealing with your flat tyre situation a lot easier. Talk to your mechanic about the best products to use for your tyres regarding tyre sealant and tyre repair kits. Check the tread on your tyres prior to travelling this will reduce your chance of getting a flat tyre.

Tyre blowout

A tyre blowout is an explosive puncture, which can cause the vehicle to swerve and be difficult to control. If a front tyre blows out, the vehicle will pull towards the side with the blown tyre. If it is the rear tyre, the rear of the vehicle will also tend to sway from side to side.

Do NOT brake suddenly. Try not to over-react with the steering. Ease off the accelerator, keep a firm grip on the steering wheel and brake GENTLY to stop, keeping the car's steering straight ahead.

Motorcycles - group rides

The following information is derived from the Ride to Live motorcycle safety campaign ridetolive.nsw.gov.au

Planning your ride will make for a more enjoyable experience and reduce the chance of a fatigue related incident.

1. Apart from familiarity with the route, other safety tips when riding in groups include: Always have a plan B, in case of problems.
2. Find a rest area map or a local tourist information map of your route.
3. Give everyone important information on the ride, include mobile numbers.
4. Plan frequent stops, make them multi-purpose (fuel, food, toilet, drinks etc.).
5. To avoid fatigue, riders should keep hydrated, ideally by drinking water.
6. Be aware of afternoon fatigue - plan for rides to be over by 3pm and suggest a light and non-fatty lunch.
7. Appoint a group leader to ride at a speed suitable for the least experienced rider.
8. Appoint a tail rider, equipped with a first aid kit, tool kit and tyre repair outfit.

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Country Driving

Driving on the open road in the Barrington Tops / Gloucester region is breathtaking, with world class scenery at every turn. The experience of country driving is different to metropolitan or motorway driving, and requires motorists to take extra precautions. **As a general rule drive to the conditions.** Please heed the warnings during wet weather or snow events as some roads that are usually open to all traffic may be closed or only open to 4WDs. Contact the Gloucester Visitor Information Centre 6538 5252 and stay up-to-date with changing road conditions.

The following information was derived from the SA.gov Hazardous Driving handout.

Unsealed Roads

Driving on unsealed roads with loose or shifting surfaces requires care and attention as control of the vehicle and braking are more difficult. Drivers should slow down to maintain safe control. Tyres only have half the grip or friction of a bitumen road, drivers will need a longer distance to brake. Similarly, when driving around a bend loss of control of the vehicle (skidding) will occur at a much lower speed, compared to the control you would have when driving around a similar bend on a bitumen road.

If you are driving a **hire or rental** car you will need to nominated at the point of hire that you intend to take the car on unsealed roads, to ensure you are adequately insured.

Animals on the road

When driving in country areas, it is not uncommon to encounter livestock (e.g. cows or sheep), which may have wandered onto the road, or may be being moved across or down a road. Animals such as cattle, kangaroos, emus and even dogs and cats can be hypnotised by the glare of headlights. If an animal is on the road in front of you, brake slowly, sound your horn and flash your headlights - don't swerve. Try to pass smoothly behind the animal. Kangaroos and many other native animals are especially active at night and at dawn.

Causeways

There are many rivers in the region that have causeways instead of bridges, these are raised concrete paths on the riverbed where cars can cross the river safely. Generally the water level on these causeways is an easy crossing for 2WD cars. However during periods of rain the levels can rise making passing difficult.

If depth markers are not available, the rule is simple: If you cannot see the road or its line markings, do not drive through the water.

Caution from the SES: Motorists are urged to exercise extreme caution when approaching a flooded causeway and if in any doubt to not attempt to cross it. Motorists should also obey any road closed signs. If you do get into trouble you endanger not only your own life and those in the vehicle with you, but also those of emergency services volunteers and workers who rescue you.

How to change a tyre

Information from the NRMA

Make sure the jack is on firm ground before jacking up your car.

- Apply handbrake & chock wheel on opposite side of the car
- Place the jack under your car near the wheel to be replaced
- Loosen wheel nuts with socket wrench or another appropriate tool
- Jack the car up until the wheel is clear from the ground
- Undo wheel nuts with socket wrench or other appropriate tool
- Remove wheel and replace with spare wheel
- Screw wheel nuts back on firmly
- Lower jack and tighten wheel nuts.

More detailed instructions on changing a tyre or refer to your owner's manual.

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