

# Capricorn Conservation Council Inc.

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## **Media Statement** **Beach Driving at Byfield**

Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) is extremely disappointed that Rockhampton Regional Council has caved in to pressure from four wheel drivers and has abandoned any form of permit to drive Capricorn Coast Beaches.

“Scientific evidence has shown that any driving on beaches causes environmental damage,” CCC vice-president Ian Herbert said. “It needs to be acknowledged by both beach users and RRC that this damage is occurring. While we do not oppose the continued use of vehicles on Nine Mile Beach, we would not like to see it extended to the opening up of Three Rivers Beach.” Three Rivers Beach has never been legally open to driving. Opening access to Three Rivers Beach will also make it difficult to prevent four wheel drivers venturing into the Shoalwater Bay Military area where a huge amount of damage has been done in the past.

Beaches are not there to be used as roads. In earlier times they were only used by a small number of fishermen or campers. However with today’s explosion in four wheel drives, many people seem to think that they have a God-given right to drive on the beach.

Now the Rocky Regional Council has given everyone a green light to go driving on the beach. This is environmentally unsustainable.

CCC is calling on the State Government to firstly implement in full the proposed actions listed in the Draft Byfield Area Management Plan, to close the illegal access tracks to Three Rivers Beach. Secondly to provide sufficient funds to the Qld Parks & Wildlife Service so that they can control illegal activity including hooning at night and cutting new tracks off the beach and through vegetation.

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