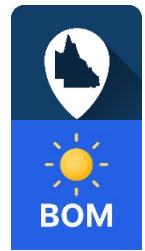


North & North West Queensland – A quick guide

Trusted sources – Not google maps!

- **Road conditions/closures:** QLDTraffic - [Road Condition Information - QLDTraffic](#) – Look for this image in the App Store →
- **Weather warnings:** Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) warnings/alerts - [Queensland Weather and Warnings](#) – Look for this image in the app store →
- **Local updates:** your local council disaster dashboard/alerts (conditions can change fast).



Floodwater: the simple rule

If it's flooded, forget it!

Why it matters:

- Floodwater can be Swiftwater. Swiftwater is > 2 km/h, which is **about walking pace**.
- **It doesn't take much water to move a car.** As little as **15 cm** can cause a car to lose traction and be swept away.
- A common rescue scenario is **vehicles swept off causeways** after drivers enter water.
- Stop early. Don't 'test it'. Don't follow another car through.
- Check **QLDTraffic + BoM + council alerts** and choose a safer route or delay travel.

Long-distance driving

Queensland Government fatigue guidance:

- Break every **2 hours**.
- Share the driving if you can.
- Never drive more than **10 hours** in a day.
- If you feel drowsy: **stop and rest immediately** (music, fresh air, caffeine = not a fix).

Practical habits:

- **Drive in pairs** where possible (safer + backup if one driver is tired). Tell someone your route and don't assume you'll have mobile coverage.
- Avoid night driving, especially on regional and unfamiliar roads.
- Fuel, food, and water: assume delays in wet season.

Single carriageway / unsealed road etiquette:

- When passing on narrow/unsealed roads; slow down and move left where safe to reduce rock + dust spray.
- **Road trains:** pull off the road **as safely as possible** and let them pass — they're long, heavy, and **can't stop quickly**.

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Livestock and Wildlife

- Watch for Cattle, Kangaroos, Cassowaries, Emu's and other animals on or near the road, especially at **dawn, dusk and night**.
- Slow down in signed areas and avoid sudden swerving, which can cause a rollover or loss of control.

If you break down in remote areas

Safest default: stay with the vehicle (it's easier to find a vehicle than a person).

- RFDS advice: if your car breaks down or you become lost, **never leave the vehicle**; use it for shelter/shade.

What to do:

- Pull over safely, hazards on, conserve battery.
- Use water wisely; keep yourself cool.
- If it's safe and the vehicle runs, staying in the car with **shade/AC** is often your best option.

Emergencies: when to call 000

Call 000 immediately if it's life-threatening (serious injury/medical emergency, vehicle trapped by rising water, heat illness, imminent danger).

How to give your location:

- Give **GPS coordinates (lat./long.)**:
 - On most phones: open **Compass** app/Maps 'dropped pin' details/Emergency location screen (varies by device).
- Also tell them:
 - **Road/highway name**, last known town, direction of travel;
 - **Nearest landmark** (bridge, creek, station, rest area);
 - If you can see one: **distance marker / kilometre post**

Short reminder

Wet season changes fast. If roads or crossings look questionable: don't debate it – delay, detour or turn back.

Created in collaboration with the Queensland Fire Department.

