

Driving in Rural and Remote Areas

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Rural or remote areas can be defined as areas with a low population density and without readily accessible medical services. All of us need to stay alert to the road conditions and monitor our speed when driving in rural and remote areas.



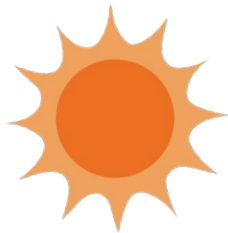
Two Thirds of the Australian Population live in capital cities and metropolitan areas.



But 65 per cent of all road fatalities in Australia occur in rural and remote areas.

Where do rural crashes occur?

Most casualty crashes occur during daylight hours. The highest number of crashes occur between 2pm and 6pm, and mostly on weekends.



Common characteristics of crashes in rural and remote areas



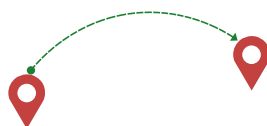
Variation in vehicle type (i.e. agricultural vehicles)



Higher travel speeds



Variations in the road environment (i.e. unsealed roads)



Longer travelling distances

Risks on rural roads



Soft edges



Mud



Bushfires



Fatigued drivers



Road corrugations



Dust

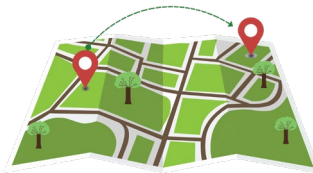


Flooded roads



Livestock & wildlife

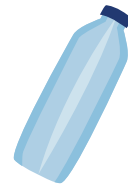
Tips for staying safe



Plan your route carefully



Obey the road rules



Be mindful of isolation in remote areas (ensure you have sufficient water for several days if you break down)



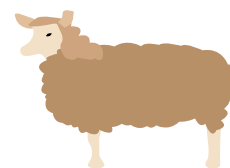
Ensure your vehicle is well-maintained and roadworthy



Reduce speed to the driving conditions not the speed limit



Take breaks every two hours, get out and stretch your legs.



Be alert for wildlife, livestock and pedestrians especially dawn/dusk



Ensure there is someone who you can check in with along the journey. i.e. when you start, finish and along the way