

Accessible Beaches - Beach Wheelchair Hire Agreement

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Part A - Conditions of Use

Overview:

Through Council's Accessible Beaches Trial at Woorim Beach, two beach wheelchairs (Mobi-Chair and Sandcruiser) are available for free hire through the Bribie Island Surf Lifesaving Club on weekends and public holidays during the 2019/20 Summer season (September - May). Before using the beach wheelchair, wheelchair users and/or their support person(s) are required to read this document in full and complete and sign the safety procedures checklist (Part B).

The beach wheelchairs are intended to be used by people with a temporary or permanent disability, or any condition which makes it difficult for them to access the sand and water independently. Both chairs can be used within the designated area (Beach Access Point 11 to the SLSC Beach Access Point) of Woorim Beach on the hard sand, soft sand and in shallow water, however, only the Mobi-Chair is designed to float and may be taken into water deeper than 15cm. Neither wheelchair is intended to be used independently and therefore requires assistance from at least one support person, or two when entering the water to floating depth in the Mobi-Chair.

Please follow the advice and directions of the on-duty surf lifesavers at all times. If Bribie Island SLSC determines that conditions on Woorim Beach are unsafe for beach wheelchair users, they reserve the right to withhold the beach wheelchairs from public use until conditions are once again deemed safe. Bribie Island SLSC may request the user to immediately return the beach wheelchair where any person fails to comply with these Conditions of Use.

Please note that a hoist is not available at Woorim Beach to assist with transferring users into and out of the beach wheelchairs. Furthermore, Bribie Island SLSC surf lifesavers are not able to assist users to transfer between wheelchairs.

Beach Wheelchair Safety Procedures

Before use:

- Check the weather for incoming tides as well as the strength of the waves, wind strength, storms and heat prior to hiring the wheelchair. The staff at Bribie Island Surf Lifesaving Club will be able to provide you with helpful information about weather conditions and suitability for beach wheelchair use.
- Ensure walkway/routes to be taken are clear of hazards.
- Visually inspect seating, tyres and moving parts for possible damage and report same to Bribie Island SLSC immediately.
- Ensure the support person(s) stabilise the wheelchair so that it will not move when a person is being seated.

During use:

Mobi-Chair Only:

- The Mobi-Chair has been designed to be used on dry sand, wet sand, at the water's edge, and to float in shallow water levels up to waist height of a support person in still water conditions.
- It is recommended that all harnesses are securely fastened at all times to ensure safe and stable positioning. The harnesses can easily be adjusted in length to create a suitable fit.
- The backrest angle can be adjusted into three positions by pulling the looped chain located at the back of the chair behind the backrest.
- When entering the water to float:
 - Follow any directions given by the volunteer surf lifesavers on patrol.
 - two support people must accompany the wheelchair user.
 - the chair must not be taken to a depth which exceeds waist height of the shortest support person.
- The Mobi-Chair will begin to float as the water level reaches half way up the balloon tyres. At this point, the user will notice a small tilt backwards as the chair transitions into the floating position.

Mobi-Chair and Sandcruiser:

- Do not exceed maximum recommended loading of each wheelchair:
 - Sandcruiser - 120kg
 - Mobi-Chair - 150kg.
- When parking the wheelchair, find a level surface to park on and do not leave a wheelchair user unattended.
- The wheelchair is not designed for self-propulsion (independent use) and must be supervised and pushed by a responsible support person.
- Gradients steeper than a standard ramp rise are not recommended unless two people are assisting to propel the chair.
- The nominated support person should always keep the chair user informed about what they are intending to do (turning, entering water, crossing road, etc).
- The wheelchair must not be propelled by being towed behind a motor vehicle, kite or other means, other than being pushed/pulled by a support person
- Ensure heavy items are not placed on back of the wheelchairs.
- The wheelchair is not to be removed from the designated beach area.

After Use:

- Where possible, the user or their carer should use a shower or hose to clean down the chair before returning it to Bribie Island Surf Lifesaving Club.
- Any safety, mechanical or accessibility concerns associated with the use of the beach wheelchair should be reported immediately to Bribie Island Surf Lifesaving Club. Chair users are welcome to provide feedback on their experience of hiring and using the beach wheelchairs.

For more information about Moreton Bay Regional Council's Accessible Beaches initiative, please visit:
www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/access-inclusion

Part B - Safety procedure checklist and acknowledgement:

Safety Procedure checklist for user to complete prior to use of the Mobi-Chair or Sandcruiser wheelchair

Have you (please tick):

- ☐ Read and understood the wheelchair safety procedures
- ☐ Been provided with a demonstration on how to use the wheelchair
- ☐ Checked back rest adjustment, seat belt harness and general condition of the wheelchair
- ☐ Noted the low water instructions
- ☐ Understood the requirement to engage TWO support people if entering the water to float
- ☐ Checked weather conditions such as wind strength, incoming tides, possible storms, heat
- ☐ Checked the lifesaving flags are in operation
- ☐ Provided an approximate time to return the beach wheelchair

Acknowledgement:

I/we acknowledge that I/we, as the:

☐ User

☐ Nominated support person

of the:

☐ Mobi-Chair beach wheelchair

☐ Sandcruiser beach wheelchair

Upon hiring the wheelchair, I/we accept responsibility for the safe use of the wheelchair in accordance with the Conditions of Use and agree to indemnify Bribie Island Surf Lifesaving Club and Moreton Bay Regional Council against any claim relating to the use of the wheelchair howsoever arising.

For support person only: In addition to the above acknowledgment, I further agree to physically remain with the occupier of the wheelchair at all times for the duration of the use period.

Name of user:

Signature (if able to sign): Date:

Name of support person:

Signature: Date:

Name of Life Saving Club representative:

Signature: Date:

Privacy statement

Moreton Bay Regional Council is collecting your personal information for the purpose of confirming the Conditions of Use and Safety procedures have been read and understood. Council will use your personal information to update council's customer information records and to contact you about other functions and services of council.