

Bush Driving – Some Things to Think About

- 1) **Remember the “7 P’s” – Proper Planning and Preparation Prevents P**s Poor Performance.** Have a check list. Prepare for the worst. Prepare to be flexible.
- 2) **Service vehicle regularly:** Grease, oil change; bearings, brakes, transmission oil, engine oil, air filter, fuel filter, oil filter, wheel alignment and balance, handbrake adjustment, battery condition, tyre tread and condition, fan belts
- 3) **Before a trip:**
 - a) Check under bonnet:
 - Oil, fuel and water leaks
 - Fluid levels of radiator, engine oil, clutch, brake, battery, windscreen washer
 - Condition of hoses and filters
 - Nuts and bolts tight
 - Fan belts in good condition and tight
 - b) Check under vehicle:
 - Gearbox and transfer case - check for leaks, oil level and no water in oil
 - Tyres (including spare/s) – pressure and suitability for trip
 - Suspension – no leaks in shock absorbers and shackle bushes in good condition
 - Nuts and bolts tight e.g. bash plates, bull bar mounts
 - Check recovery points front and rear
 - c) Check outside vehicle
 - Nuts and bolts tight – bull bar, roof rack, antenna, driving lights
 - Check lights
 - d) Check inside vehicle
 - Fire extinguisher
 - Packing – low and heavy forward, tied down
 - UHF radio and other communications
 - Nuts and bolts tight – including cargo barrier
 - e) Check spares and equipment:
 - Heavy duty air compressor. Tyre pressure gauge. Tyre repair kit?
 - A good jack (check that it works); jacking plate. Make sure the wheel brace works. Practice changing a wheel
 - Ground sheet (for crawling under car etc)
 - Fuel, food and water requirements
 - Recovery gear (essential): long handled shovel, quality snatch strap and air brake, good quality rated (SWL 4.5 tonne) D shackles, leather gloves.
- 4) **After a trip:**
 - Check vehicle over for damage and things that need fixing
- 5) **Travelling**
 - Travel light – do not overload
 - Take care with stopping distance, stability, and size of vehicle
 - Be considerate of others (don't block their line of sight, no tailgating etc)
 - Protect the environment – it is what we want to enjoy. Bury all toilet waste! No soap or detergents in water ways. Leave no rubbish.
 - Follow the Code of Ethics and tread lightly!
 - Have fun!