



Kalbarri Wago Beach Quad Bike & Buggy Tour

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APPLICATION INFORMATION

We would like to seek permission from the Shire of Northampton (the Shire) to renew our current license agreement with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) for our quad bike and buggy tours along Wago Beach which is in Reserve 35206, Yallabatharra.

With Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation, the Shire and DPLH's permission we have been operating the fully guided Wago Beach Quad Bike Tours (WBQBT) since 1 July 2007 and operating our Wago Chalets and Camping area since 1983 and have been involved in Tourism in Kalbarri from 1978.

Nature of the Operation

WBQBT have two courtesy buses that pick our customers up from their accommodation in Kalbarri and transport them to Wago Farm where they are given an introduction on how to ride a 4WD quad bike or buggy and must sign an Indemnity Form. They are then fitted with a helmet and from there will ride their own quad bike/buggy in single file behind the lead tour guide in a controlled manner to the beach and along it.

Along the way there will be stops to take in the views, watch wildlife and take photos. They are also shown and told history of our area. There is complimentary refreshments of muffins and cordial supplied on every tour. The tour is designed for adults and families with the choice between quad bikes and buggies, from the novice to more experienced riders, we also have the ability to cater for disabled people to participate in our tour. We also can let customers do small scale sandboarding and have fishing for small groups of customers available on demand with weather permitting.

At the end of each tour the customers are transported back to their accommodation in Kalbarri in the courtesy buses. There is no charge for this service. They also have the choice to drive to our base which people prefer since Covid.

We are mainly conducting 2-hour tours, available every morning and afternoon and in the 'On Season' will conduct a lunchtime tour as well when demand is there. We also have a 4-hour tour available on demand. Currently our operating hours are 6am till 7pm with permission to allow for an earlier start for fishing only. The price of our tours has only changed slightly in our 17 years of operation.

The tours are all subject to demand and with our minimum numbers of 2 bikes/buggies it is not often we have to cancel a tour as it can be a minimum of 2 people participating in the tour. WBQBT have been accredited with the Australian Tourism Accreditation Program since July 2007 and in September 2012 we achieved Advanced Ecotourism Certification with Ecotourism Australia which we still currently hold. We are also a partner in Climate Action with Carbon

Neutral and annually contribute funds for the establishment of native trees and shrubs in the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor.

WBQBT also sponsors children's sporting teams and we contribute and donate to numerous volunteer organisations in Kalbarri and the Midwest region.

In the 2019 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards we received a Bronze Award in the highly sort after Adventure category and in 2021 we were again a finalist in the Adventure category. Over the years we have also been a finalist in the Midwest Business Excellence Awards. We have received Certificates of Excellence from TripAdvisor for WBQBT for the last 10 years resulting from customers review of our tours.

WBQBT is committed to providing good customer service so they enjoy their experience and leave Kalbarri with positive memories and we believe repeat customers are the best recommendation we can have.

Current size of operation

Fishing, sandboarding and guided tours involve 14 all-terrain vehicles from a fleet consisting of:

- 12 x Can Am, Honda or CFMoto two seater quad bikes;
- 12 x Polaris, Can Am or Honda two seater buggy/side by side;
- 2 x Can Am, Honda or Polaris three-seater buggy/side by side;
- 6 x Polaris, Can Am or Honda four-seater buggies/side by side; and
- 1 x Can Am six seater buggy/side by side.

We are licensed to use 14 vehicles (bikes or buggies) for each tour but have a larger fleet to give our customers a bigger choice to choose from. We use 2 bikes/buggies for our two guides and then use the remaining 12 bikes/buggies for the tour. Each tour will have a guide as the lead bike and when we have more than 6 bikes/buggies booked on a tour we will have another guide at the rear. A tour guide is with customers at all times.

We also have two Toyota Commuter buses that each seat 14 people. We store the quad bikes, buggies and one bus at Wagoie Chalets and we store one bus in Kalbarri at either our property or at a staff members property. All vehicles are fuelled up on site at Wagoie Farm and the fuel is stored 1.5 kilometres away from the Quad Bike shed which was purpose built and is Shire approved. All tours depart and return to this shed at Wagoie Chalets. We have a toilet inside the shed and an ablution block at Wagoie Chalets.

Signage

Signage for WBQT is all within the boundaries of Wagoie Farm apart from a small 'A-frame' signed under the blue directional sign for 'Wagoie Chalets' at the farm gate. Both courtesy buses have signed displayed on them with our contact details.

Proposed Amendment to current Licence

WBQT would like to request permission to amend our current licence to increase our fleet to include one single seater Can Am quad bike and two additional Can Am, Honda or Polaris 3-seater buggies/side by side vehicles to accommodate customers/family requests.

Our guides would use 2 quad bike/buggies from our fleet.

Amendments to be included on our Permitted Use

Fishing, sandboarding and guided scenic tours involving 14 all-terrain vehicles (quad bikes/buggies) chosen from a fleet consisting of:

- 1 x Single seater Can Am quad bike;
- 12 x Can Am, Honda or CFMoto two-seater quad bikes;
- 12 x Polaris, Can Am or Honda two-seater buggy/side by side;

- 2 x Can Am, Honda or Polaris three-seater buggy/side by side;
- 6 x Polaris, Can Am or Honda four-seater buggies/side by side; and
- 1 x Can Am six-seater buggy/side by side.

Hours of operation between 6am to 7pm.

Safety aspects of the operation

The quad bikes and buggies are all factory made to carry 1, 2, 3, 4 or 6 people. The buggies all have certified roll bars and have no modifications on them. The quad bikes all have certified Quad Bars attached to them with no other modifications.

The customers are all given an introduction on how to operate the bikes/buggies including safety instructions on arrival and receive guidance throughout the tour.

On Tour guides all have current First Aid Certificates and the appropriate drivers' licenses required. The tour guides carry a comprehensive first aid kit on their bikes/buggies including a fire extinguisher. Each guide's bike/buggy is fitted with a UHF two-way radio, and both carry a mobile phone and are in contact with the Wagoie Chalets office at all times whilst on tour.

Helmets are supplied and there is strictly no alcohol. All riders are asked to have a current full drivers' licence and must obey the Road Traffic Act 1972-82 (pertaining to driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol). All customers are requested to wear closed in shoes, suitable clothing and have a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and water.

At no times will bikes/buggies traverse on a gazetted road.

We have individual/separate Public Liability Insurance cover for WBQBT, Wagoie Chalets and Wagoie Farm.

Management Plans

We have previously commissioned an Environmental Management Plan on the track to the beach in Reserve 35206 which was endorsed by the planning Commission and the Shire has a copy of this report.

Our tour respects and recognises the natural and cultural significance of our area and complies with the Aboriginal Heritage Act. We have attached our Cultural Heritage Management Plan with this application.

Conclusion

WBWBT has operated the tours for the past 17 years and has had no conflict with any other users of Reserve 35206. We keep the area in which we operate free from rubbish and have done so for the past 41 years.

Many of our customers are repeat customers that keep coming back time after time. The tours are very popular with people of all ages and nationalities.

We have recorded some minor incidents in the past 17 years with the bikes and the Shire has always received full documentation of every incident.

Our tour is very popular and enables customers the chance to see a part of the coastline with limited access that is still in pristine condition and they learn the history of the area in which we operate.

We hope to be able to renew our licence with the proposed amendments with the approval of both the Shire and DPLH to continue making Kalbarri a desirable destination.

Ted, Jenny and Ashley McClintock

Maps

