

Hippocampe Beach Wheelchairs User Guide and Conditions of Use

User Guide

This User Guide contains information about safety, handling and beach access information of the Hippocampe Beach Wheelchairs, available free for hire from Coffs Harbour City Council.

Wheelchair hirers:

- have a responsibility to ensure they take all reasonable steps to avoid an accident by operating it in a safe and careful manner; and
- do so at their own risk.

Council cannot be held liable for any incident that occurs while it is the charge of a third party.

The two Hippocampe chairs are only for use at Jetty Beach.

It is the responsibility of the carer/user to ensure they have read and understood the following Safety and Handling information before use.

Safety and Handling

1. This chair is a Hippocampe all-terrain chair and can enter the water.
2. Before any use of the wheelchair, check that the wheels are correctly locked (by the clips), that the straps are suitably tightened and that the buckles are fastened.
3. For safety reasons, the user must be seated as far back in the seat as possible when the wheelchair is pushed, the back of the body on the backrest.
4. The Hippocampe is approved for a maximum sitting user of 130kg.
5. The Hippocampe is not a boat, it allows entering into water **up to the height of the seat** and is not designed to float with the user in it.
6. If the carer is unable to manage the sand, staff/CHCC lifeguards cannot be expected to provide this help on demand.
7. When entering the water it is recommended that you lean forward (the buoyancy of the front wheel may unbalance backward).
8. A helper is required for entering into the water and swimming and users must be pushed exclusively by capable adults.
9. Watch out for the incoming tide, currents and shore breaks.
10. The Hippocampe must not be propelled by towing behind a motor vehicle, kite or any other means other than being self-propelled the user or pushed by a carer.

Care

- To prevent damage, avoid using the Hippocampe on paved surfaces (footpaths / roads) as much as possible.
- Please ensure the Hippocampe is washed thoroughly after each use to prevent damage from salt and sand, and as a courtesy to the next user. This can be done at the following locations.
- The Hippocampe must be returned to the lifeguards on patrol at Jetty Beach.
- The Hippocampe must be returned in the same condition as when it was loaned out. Please advise CHCC Lifeguards of any loss, damage or non-functioning part to this equipment immediately. Council may require the hirer to pay for any loss or damage to the chair arising during the hire.