TURTLE WATCHERS
CODE OF CONDUCT

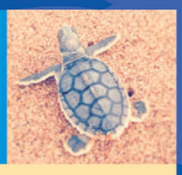
Stages of Nesting	Time taken	Vulnerability to disturbance	Torch use	Distance from Turtle
1. Leaving the water and crossing the beach	5-10 mins	HIGH	No	Stay still & low – at least 15m away
2. Digging the body pit	20-40 mins	HIGH	No	Stay still & low – at least 15m away
3. Excavating the egg chamber	15-20 mins	HIGH	No	Two people at a time, stay still & low at least 2m behind turtle
4. Laying eggs	3-10 mins	MEDIUM	No*	Stay still & low at least 1m behind turtle
5. Covering & camouflaging the nest	20-40 mins	LOW	No	Stay still & low at least 5m behind turtle
6. Returning to the ocean	5-10 mins	MEDIUM	No	Stay still & low at least 2m behind turtle

Nesting



- ✓ Walk along the beach at the high tide mark (near the water) looking for tracks in the wet sand or turtles. DO NOT APPROACH OR SHINE LIGHTS ON TURTLES leaving the water and moving up the beach. If a turtle is encountered; STOP, DROP AND BECOME A ROCK.
- ✓ When turtle watching; NO GLOW, GO SLOW and STAY LOW. Do not use a torch, do not make sudden movements and stay low to the ground and out of the turtle's line of sight.
- ✓ If approaching a nesting turtle during stage 3 or 4 crawl up behind her on your stomach – avoiding her tracks as these are needed in the morning for monitoring.
- ✓ Always position yourself behind the turtle and stay low, if you are getting covered in sand as she digs you are too close.
- ✓ Be patient. She may abandon the nest and dig another one for a variety of reasons including hitting an obstacle or the sand being too dry.
- ✓ Wait until she is laying before moving closer. She will be very still when she is laying, there will be no sand spraying and she will not be using her flippers.
- ✓ Give her space to camouflage her nest and stay out of her sight.
- ✓ Do not get between her and the ocean when she is returning to the sea.
- ✓ Never use a flash when taking photos and no photos at night.
- ✓ Never use a torch when turtle watching*
- ✓ Depart beaches by 11pm.
- ✓ Wear shoes as it is a town beach and there can be broken glass.

Hatching



Please observe the following during hatching:

- ✓ Stand back from the nest – there could be more hatchlings under the sand
- ✓ Let the hatchlings make their own way down to the water
- ✓ Hatchlings can become stuck in footprints so do not cross their path – stand to the side
- ✗ DO NOT TOUCH OR HANDLE THE HATCHLINGS
- ✗ DO NOT USE LIGHTS OR FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY
- ✗ DO NOT GET BETWEEN THE HATCHLINGS AND THE OCEAN

For more information please contact:

Care for Hedland Environmental Association
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Parks and Wildlife Service · PLS · North West Telegraph · Northern Star Resources Ltd · Horizon Power · Santos · Pilbara Ports · Care for Hedland · Town of Port Hedland · BHP

Care for Hedland run guided evening tours during the nesting season, contact evening@careforhedland.org.au for more details.

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