

Beach Wheelchair – Operation and Safety Instructions

Approved By: **Director Works and Services**

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The Beach Wheelchair is designed for outdoor use only, on the beach (on hard and soft sand), in water, and on grass.

Disclaimer

Users of the Beach Wheelchair must comply with these ***Operation and Safety Instructions*** and be responsible for the cost of repairs to the Beach Wheelchair, should any damage occur due to misuse.

Users agree to release and indemnify and to keep indemnified the Burnie City Council, its servants and agents, from and against all actions, costs, claims, charges, expenses, penalties, demands and damages whatsoever which may be brought or made or claimed against them, or any of them, in connection with the use of the Beach Wheelchair. Any liability to indemnify the Burnie City Council shall be reduced proportionally to the extent that any act or omission of the Burnie City Council, contributed to the loss or liability.

Instructions for Use and Safety Procedures

Before Use

- Check park brake release and engage mechanism.
- Check how to adjust arm and foot rests.
- Visually inspect seating, harness, tyres and moving parts for possible damage.
- Check the weather for incoming tides, waves and wind strength, storms and heat prior to using the chair.
- Ensure the footrest is lowered prior to a person being seated.
- Ensure the parking brake is engaged when the chair is parked.
- **DO NOT** exceed the maximum recommended loading of 120kg.
- Always use the seat belt and safety harness when using the Beach Wheelchair on dry land, including soft and hard sand.
- The chair is not designed for self-propulsion and must be supervised and pushed by a responsible assistant.

During Use

- Do not leave a person unattended or alone in the chair.
- Steep gradients are not recommended unless two people are able to assist with pushing the chair.
- In soft sand, it is often easier to pull the chair backwards, rather than push it forwards; two people are recommended to pull the chair backwards through the sand.
- The chair has been designed to be used on both dry and wet sand, as well as in the water; the chair is stable in water levels up to the centre of the tyres in still water conditions, beyond this point two assistants are required as the balloon tyres on the chair have a tendency to float, depending on the weight being carried and will become unstable once the chair and passenger become buoyant.
- When in shallow water the use of the seat belt is optional depending on the occupants understanding and capacity to move around freely, if passenger experiences unsteadiness, the seat belt should be used.
- Always keep the passenger informed about what you intend to do.

After Use

- Ensure seat and foot rests are in correct position and the brake is applied prior to a person exiting the chair.
- Ensure chair is returned to the storage cabinet and cabinet is securely locked after use.
- Report any damage, safety, mechanical or accessibility concerns to the Burnie City Council as soon as possible, by phoning (03) 6430 5700.

