

Important Contacts

Water Police 9442 8600
Ranger Services 9531 7777
Police Assistance 131 444
Wildlife Care 9474 9055
Dept of Fisheries (FishWatch) 1800 815 507
Shire of Waroona 9733 7800
Preston Beach General Store 9739 1444
Preston Beach Volunteer Rangers 0427 199 754
Ambulance, Police, Fire 000

www.emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au
www.sharksmart.com.au



PRESTON BEACH BEN SIGNS IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000 AND QUOTE THE RELEVANT BEN SIGN NUMBER

Pedestrian Access Point - Quote BEN Sign 102
Northern Vehicle Access Point - Quote BEN Sign 100
Southern Vehicle Access Point - Quote BEN Sign 101

Shire of Waroona

52 Hesse Street
PO Box 20
WAROONA WA 6215
Tel: (08) 9733 7800
Fax: (08) 9733 1883
Email: warshire@waroona.wa.gov.au



BEACH EMERGENCY NUMBER (BEN) SIGNS

ABOUT BEN SIGNS

The Beach Emergency Numbers (BEN) system – named in honour of fatal shark bite victim Ben Gerring – is a coding system that aims to improve emergency response times by installing signs with unique codes at public beach access points.

These signs provide specific location information, vital when emergency services are deployed in the event of a shark sighting, attack or other beach emergencies.

The program was initially implemented by the City of Mandurah. In December 2017, the Western Australian Government launched a grants program to provide funding for local government authorities (LGAs) to install BEN signs along the coast from Geraldton to the South Australian border.

The grants program has been developed and coordinated by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), who has also provided support to LGAs in the development of their grant applications.

Signs are primarily located at beach access points determined by the LGA in consultation with DPIRD, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and relevant stakeholders.

BEN signs will be progressively installed in participating LGA areas and are currently located in:

Shire of Waroona (Preston Beach)

City of Mandurah

City of Kwinana

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY ARE BEN SIGNS IMPORTANT?

Quoting the information on the nearest BEN sign will help emergency services accurately pinpoint the location of the emergency.

When visiting the beach, take note of the closest BEN sign location and information.

WHAT DO BEN SIGNS LOOK LIKE?

All BEN signs installed under the State Government's program are reversible with a uniform red and green sign on the front and a beach closure sign on the back.

This consistent approach to signage will help ensure familiarity, improving sign awareness in the event of an emergency.

The beach closure sign will allow local government authorities (LGAs) easy access to signage in case of an emergency.

HOW DO BEN SIGNS WORK?

Each BEN sign has a unique code based on an area prefix followed by a one to four digit number. The official location name (if there is one), the address, suburb and nearest intersection are also on each sign.

This information is integrated into computer aided dispatch systems used by emergency services (ambulance, police and fire crews).

WHERE ARE BEN SIGNS LOCATED?

BEN signs are primarily installed at public beach access points along the coastline of LGAs from Geraldton to the South Australia border. Some signs will also be located at harbours and estuaries, boat ramps, fishing platforms and jetties.

Sign locations are determined by the LGA in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and relevant stakeholders.

HOW DO I USE A BEN SIGN IN AN EMERGENCY?

In the event of an emergency, dial triple zero and quote the unique code and other sign specific information.

Where possible, someone should wait at the BEN sign until emergency service crews arrive.

HOW DO I USE A BEN SIGN WHEN REPORTING SHARK SIGHTINGS?

BEN signs may be referred to when reporting shark sightings to **Water Police on 9442 8600**. This will help beach managers implement beach closures earlier with accurate location information.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO BEN SIGN?

In the event of an emergency where there is no BEN sign, you are encouraged to use the Emergency+ app.

The app uses the GPS functionality built into smart phones to help a triple zero caller provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services.

For more information visit

<http://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au/>

WHAT IF THERE IS NO MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE?

Where mobile phone communication coverage is limited, emergency calls can sometimes still be made on triple zero by using another mobile service provider available in the area. When visiting areas where no mobile coverage is available, you should monitor mobile phone signal strength and seek high points in the landscape to aid communication.