



## The importance OF LIGHTS

Choosing the best spotlights and driving lights for your vehicle is guaranteed to make your next adventure spectacular if you're planning on driving or camping overnight.

For many travellers, having the right lights on the front of your vehicle is mandatory before setting off on your travels. Anyone who has driven at night, on country roads, long distances and in secluded or dangerous conditions knows that the darkness is filled with hazards and until they are uncomfortably close, you are at the mercy of your lights for visibility.

Maximising your vision, particularly at night, is key to allowing you time to react to hazards such as changed traffic conditions, pot holes, parked cars, unexpected corners and surface changes from bitumen to gravel.

Poor visibility is a major factor in accidents, and taking time to prepare and act for a range of obstacles can increase your control and safety and can prevent that last

moment reaction braking that is hard to control at all.

Travelling through the outback, a long focused beam can give you those vital moments on the open road and at higher speed limits, while both in the bush and on the open road the spread beam will help you catch that early glimpse of one of Australia's great assets, wildlife. Especially when they are heading your way!

So what kind of lights should you buy and why?

There are three main types of lights, Halogen – the more traditional types of lights; HID – providing a brighter, whiter light; and LED – newer to the market, offering reliability and efficiency. While halogen lights are, for most people, not something to consider anymore, HID's are still popular in search lights as they can provide light beyond the needs of driving. However, most people find the right product in the LED group of lights. LED lights can offer size and shape options from round lights to light bars and also combination

beams where one light can illuminate both a spot and a spread pattern.

Other key factors you might like to consider when choosing lights are:

- *Brightness*
- *Shape of the light output*
- *Construction quality*
- *Waterproof (particularly for crossing rivers, beaches and other waterways)*
- *Well constructed reflectors and lenses.*

Be very wary of budget options in the light market, there are many cheap brands even from reputable stores that claim long warranties and impressive light output that simply do not perform in the field. Quality driving lights aren't cheap, but when it comes to safety of yourself and your family, they are worth it.

### Choosing the right recovery gear

When you're heading offroad, you need to ensure you have the right equipment and recovery gear is particularly important.

Whether you are in a small hatchback on a motorbike or in a large 4x4, most offroad driving is heading to a destination, like heading into the high country with mountain bikes or to the Overland Track in Tasmania for a hiking adventure. Getting there and back again can easily end up being the hardest part of the adventure, so you need to prepare for the little things that might go wrong along the way. Things like spare tyres, compressors and jump starters are great additions, just in case something does go wrong.

But it's the "just in case" things that you might find are the most essential items to take with you, and these are generally the ones you think afterwards "if only I'd packed that" ... That's why it's so important to be prepared for any given situation.

Choosing the right recovery tools will ensure you are equipped to handle any situation along the way, specifically designed to help you safely get out of tough spots and on your way as soon as possible to enjoy the rest of your 4wding adventure. You don't want to miss anything when packing, because this could be the one key item you need!

You don't need to have the biggest or most complex range of equipment to successfully recover your car, but you do need to have quality products. When you're pulling your car or van out of a mud ditch, a \$2 tow strap

from a dollar shop probably isn't going to cut it. You need something a little more comprehensive.

There are two types of recovery – self recovery which involves using the environment around you; or assisted recovery, which is great if you have the opportunity to use another vehicle. Whatever recovery option you're able to use, both have a starting point when it comes to gear. Assisted recovery might require a snatch strap, shackles, recovery dampener and rated recovery points on both vehicles; while with self recovery you might need things like shackles, winch extension strap, tree trunk protector, winch dampener, rated recovery points and a winch. Because you never know what kind of assistance you might have available – better to be prepared for all kinds of situations and have all the right gear at hand.

Aside from the rated recovery points on your vehicle which are sold separately, all this gear can be easily found in one good recovery kit.

When you're buying a recovery kit, your gear needs to be rated for the fully laden setup, for instance if your fully laden weight is 3,000 kilogram a snatch strap of two to three times this would mean you need an 8,000 kilogram strap and shackles to suit. Beyond the basics in a good kit, you may require a hand or powered winch for self recoveries, a ground



anchor if you are going anywhere without trees and don't leave home without a good solid shovel.

Make sure you talk to the staff so you know you're getting everything you need and the best quality. The guys at Kingsley Enterprises know what they are talking about so don't be afraid to ask questions and get the best advice available.

The right advice and the right gear can be the difference between a dream and a nightmare adventure.

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