

TRIP & TRACK CLASSIFICATIONS



The following 'Trip & Track Classifications' information is taken from the Geelong 4WD Club By-Laws.

Trip Rating

Rate the trip to the highest expected standard and be prepared to make changes to suit weather or track conditions. It should be noted that four-wheel driving is unpredictable by its very nature and variation from the expected degree of difficulty is possible. The following ratings should be used as a guide:

Scenic/Social: Sealed roads and some good unsealed roads or tracks. No four-wheel driving experience required. Road tyres are acceptable.

Easy: Little or no Four Wheel Driving experience required. Road tyres are acceptable. Front and rear recovery points at Trip Leader's discretion. Expected track classification to be encountered – Green.

Medium: Low range may be needed with a snatch strap recovery possible. All terrain tyres or better preferred. Front and rear recovery points (rated), basic recovery gear (snatch strap, 2 rated shackles and gloves), and appropriate driver training. Expected track classification to be encountered – Green and Blue.

Hard: Steep terrain or rutted tracks. Snatch strap or winching recovery may be required. All terrain tyres acceptable, mud terrain tyres preferred. Road tyres are not acceptable. Front and rear rated recovery points, basic recovery gear and appropriate driver training. Winch and full recovery gear is preferred. Expected track classification to be encountered – mostly Blue & Black

Extreme – Very steep, deeply rutted tracks or rock hopping will be encountered. Front and rear rated recovery points, full recovery gear (snatch strap, rated shackles, tree trunk protector, winch extension, drag chain and gloves) and appropriate driver training. Winching will be expected and an electric or motorised winch is compulsory on all vehicles. Mud terrain or aggressive style tyres essential. Warning: Vehicle damage may occur. Expected track classification to be encountered – Black & Double Black.





Track Classification

A new classification system for 4WD tracks on Public Land across Victoria has been developed by an advisory group representing Parks Victoria, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Four Wheel Drive Victoria featuring:

- Four level colour coded system indicating degree of difficulty
- Standard symbols to show easy to very difficult tracks
- General descriptions to guide drivers

Things to consider:

- The tracks have been classified for dry conditions and most medium, difficult and very difficult tracks will be more difficult in wet weather
- Recovery equipment is advisory only and is not mandatory, but recommended in line with Tourism Adventure Activity Standards
- Inexperienced drivers may require further training for more difficult tracks

	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
Description	All wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers.	Mainly High Range 4WD but Low Range required. Some 4WD experience or training required.	Significant Low Range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low Range 4WD with high ground clearance. Experienced drivers.
Advisory Sign/Symbol	Green Circle 	Blue Square 	Black Diamond 	Double Black Diamond 
Expected terrain & track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle Suitability	All-wheel drive and High range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range 4WD and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud terrain tyres)
Recovery Equipment				Winch recovery equipment required.
Driver training experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

Track classification wording and table provided courtesy of FWDVIC