



Planning a trip across the Simpson? Has all your pre-planning included checking out the latest restrictions?

Be aware that since the opening of the desert in 2014 there have been two significant rule changes.

## 1. Every vehicle must have a sand flag

Specifications:

- Minimum 300mm wide and 290mm high
- Fluorescent red/orange or lime/yellow
- If mounted on bullbar or front of vehicle must be 3.5m from ground level
- If mounted on roof rack must be 2m from roof level

For further information see [National Parks South Australia](#).



*Safety flags give drivers a greater chance of seeing approaching vehicles and minimise the risk of accidents.*

## 2. Far more restrictive campfire rules

In **Witjira National Park** – including Dalhousie Springs east to Purnie Bore.

- No wood fires at any time
- Solid fuel fires allowed only in portable receptacles (including a bbq, brazier, fire box).



From my reading, the definition of “solid fuel” includes things such as heat beads, briquettes, charcoal, compressed paper/sawdust artificial logs, but NOT WOOD.

**In Simpson Desert Conservation Park and Regional Reserve** – in South Australian section of the Simpson

- Wood fires are allowed, but you must bring your own wood.

**In Munga-Thirri National Park** (formerly Simpson Desert National Park) – in Queensland

- No fires of any kind are allowed.

## **Why it's important to be aware of any restrictions**

It pays to be aware of these restrictions and ensure you are compliant. On one trip across the desert, we were greeted by 2 Police Landcruisers sitting on top of Big Red. The officers informed us that they were just completing a joint Queensland/ South Australia operation across the desert, mainly focusing on speed. I bet this is one of the last places you would expect to encounter a radar!

The debate over trailers being used across the desert continues to rage. Don't be surprised if this is the next restriction on the list.

***For more advice and information, check out our 3 Part series on preparing and undertaking a Simpson Desert crossing.***