

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT FAQs

EVENT WEEK | MONDAY 19 – TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026

PLAN AHEAD

Changed traffic conditions begin from approximately 5:00am Monday 19 October. Roads are scheduled to return to normal conditions from 5:00am Tuesday 27 October. Please allow additional travel time and follow traffic-control directions.

GENERAL TRAFFIC CHANGES

When do the major traffic changes begin?

From approximately 5:00am Monday 19 October, roads within the GC500 circuit will change to a one-way, anti-clockwise traffic system. Traffic controllers will direct vehicles around the circuit, and all traffic must follow the one-way direction. Normal traffic conditions are scheduled to return from 5:00am Tuesday 27 October.

Which roads will be affected from Monday 19 October?

Changed traffic conditions will apply across the GC500 precinct, including Gold Coast Highway, Surfers Paradise Boulevard, Main Beach Parade, Cable Street, Breaker Street, Pacific Street, Ferny Avenue, Higman Street, Serisier Avenue, Hill Parade, The Esplanade and Ocean Avenue.

Will the Gold Coast Highway be closed?

The Gold Coast Highway will remain open, but traffic will be reduced to one northbound lane, one southbound lane and one emergency lane between Monday 19 and Tuesday 27 October. Delays are expected, particularly during peak periods, so please allow additional travel time.

Will I still be able to travel through Main Beach and Surfers Paradise?

Yes, but traffic conditions will be different. Roads within the circuit will operate one-way anti-clockwise from Monday 19 October, and several roads will have local-access restrictions, lane changes or diversions. Please follow traffic-control directions and allow extra time.

When are the roads closed for the event?

Vehicles will not be able to enter or exit the closed event precinct during the following periods:

- Friday 23 October: 6:00am to 6:00pm
- Saturday 24 October: 7:00am to 7:00pm
- Sunday 25 October: 7:00am to 7:00pm

Residents requiring their vehicle during these periods must move it outside the closed precinct before the applicable closure.

PARKING AND VEHICLE REMOVAL

Can I leave my vehicle parked on a public street within the event precinct?

No. Vehicles must be removed from all public roads within the event precinct, even if the street is not physically part of the racing surface. This includes public streets such as Ferny Avenue, Pacific Street, Cable Street and surrounding roads within the event precinct. Vehicles left on public roads after the applicable deadline may be towed at the owner's expense.

When must vehicles be removed from public roads?

- Before 6:00am Friday 23 October
- Before 7:00am Saturday 24 October
- Before 7:00am Sunday 25 October

Residents are strongly encouraged to move vehicles at least 30 minutes before each deadline.

Do vehicles parked in private garages or driveways need to be removed?

No. Vehicles parked entirely within a private garage or driveway do not need to be moved. However, those vehicles cannot be driven in or out while the roads are closed for racing.

What is a special event clearway?

A special event clearway is a strict no-parking area established to allow event infrastructure, operational and emergency vehicle movements. Clearways apply to residents, visitors and the general public. Signage will identify where and when each clearway applies. Vehicles left in a clearway may be towed and a fee will apply.

Can I park in Main Beach during the event weekend?

Parking restrictions will apply across Main Beach and the event precinct. Residents and visitors should check local signage carefully before parking. Some Main Beach areas will also operate under time-limited parking arrangements during the event.

SEA WORLD, THE SPIT AND WATERWAYS DRIVE

Is Sea World still open during event week and the GC500 weekend?

Yes, absolutely. Sea World remains accessible.

Is Waterways Drive closed?

No. Waterways Drive is open and is not part of the racing circuit. It remains the key access route for Main Beach, The Spit and Sea World. Northbound traffic on the Gold Coast Highway can access Main Beach and The Spit via Waterways Drive. Southbound traffic must enter the appropriate left-hand lane before the Southport Sundale Bridge.

Will there be delays travelling to Sea World or The Spit?

There may be traffic delays due to changed lane arrangements, increased visitor numbers and congestion on Gold Coast Highway, Waterways Drive and Southport Bridge. Please allow additional travel time and follow traffic-control directions.

PARADISE WATERS

What impact will there be in Paradise Waters?

Paradise Waters will remain accessible but will be limited to local traffic during the event weekend. Changed conditions will apply around Admiralty Drive and the Gold Coast Highway intersection.

Will Admiralty Drive remain open?

Yes. Vehicles will continue to use the intersection at Admiralty Drive and Gold Coast Highway. Police will manage the intersection during specified periods to assist traffic movements.

Can Paradise Waters residents park on the street?

Residents will be issued parking passes to allow on-street parking within Paradise Waters during the event period. Passes must be displayed as required, and all local signage must still be followed.

Can I enter Macintosh Island Park from Admiralty Drive?

The Admiralty Drive pedestrian entry to Macintosh Island Park is closed during the build period. Please use the pathways under the bridges at the northern and southern ends of Paradise Waters. Children's playgrounds and public amenities within Macintosh Island Park remain open outside the event-day closure period.

What happens to Macintosh Island Park on event days?

Macintosh Island Park, its car park, Helen Park, Commodore Park and the affected Oceanway Footpath locations will be closed from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 October.

BUDDS BEACH

When do the Budds Beach traffic changes begin?

The Budds Beach access changes begin from 8:00pm Wednesday 21 October and continue until 5:00am Tuesday 27 October.

How do I access Budds Beach during this period?

Access to Budds Beach will be via Cypress Avenue from Gold Coast Highway northbound or Surfers Paradise Boulevard westbound.

Can I enter or exit Ferny Avenue from Palm, Pine, Norfolk or Birt Avenue?

No. Entry and exit to Ferny Avenue and Gold Coast Highway from Birt Avenue, Norfolk Avenue, Pine Avenue and Palm Avenue will be closed. All traffic must exit Budds Beach via Cypress Avenue.

MAIN BEACH

Will Tedder Avenue remain open?

Tedder Avenue will remain open for business between Main Beach Parade and Cronin Avenue. The section between Cronin Avenue and Gold Coast Highway will be restricted to local access for affected residents.

How do I access Main Beach and The Spit?

Access will remain available via Waterways Drive. Please follow traffic-control directions, as Gold Coast Highway and roads around Main Beach will operate under changed traffic conditions.

Can vehicles enter the track precinct overnight?

After-hours vehicle access is limited to authorised vehicles with the correct passes. Access is available between 7:00pm and 7:00am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through the nominated entry gates, subject to operational conditions.

SURFERS PARADISE

What changes apply on The Esplanade?

The Esplanade north of Staghorn Avenue will temporarily operate one-way northbound from Monday 19 to Tuesday 27 October. During event days, the section from Staghorn Avenue to Main Beach Parade will be closed between 7:00am and 7:00pm, with authorised local access outside closure hours.

Will Ocean Avenue remain accessible?

Access to Mantra Sun City is not affected. However, Ocean Avenue will have changed traffic conditions and no through access to Surfers Paradise Boulevard during the event period. Limited westbound local access will operate between Surfers Paradise Boulevard and The Esplanade.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Will the G:link continue operating?

Yes. Access to G:link stations will be maintained throughout the works and event period.

Will extra tram services operate during the GC500?

Yes. Extra G:link services are scheduled across the event weekend:

- Friday 23 October: every 10 minutes from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
 - Saturday 24 October: every 7.5 minutes from 8:00am to 4:00pm, every 6.5 minutes from 4:00pm to 7:30pm and every 10 minutes from 7:30pm to 9:30pm
 - Sunday 25 October: every 7.5 minutes from 8:00am to 6:00pm and every 10 minutes from 6:00pm to 8:30pm
- Six additional discretionary services may also be deployed during the weekend to assist with clearing crowds at stations.

Will buses operate normally?

Some bus routes and stops will be changed, temporarily closed or relocated. Alternative stops will be marked where available. Plan ahead using Translink or call 13 12 30 before travelling.

Which bus services are most likely to be affected?

Routes 70, 704, 705, 731, 737, 738, 740, 741, 742 and 747 are the services most affected by the changed traffic conditions.

Will temporary bus stops be available?

Temporary stops are planned at:

- Woodroffe Avenue and Pacific Street for school services and the shuttle
- Tedder Avenue and Main Beach Parade for services travelling towards Broadbeach South and Helensvale
- Main Beach Parade opposite Tedder Avenue for return services towards Sea World.

PEDESTRIAN AND RESIDENT ACCESS

Can pedestrians enter the event precinct during the GC500?

From Friday 23 to Sunday 25 October, entry to the event precinct requires a Resident Access Pass or valid event ticket. Residents requiring specific event-day pedestrian access advice should contact the Community Relations Team.

Will beach access remain open?

Yes. Beach access will remain available throughout the works, although pedestrians may need to follow temporary routes around closed sections of the Oceanway Footpath.

Who can I contact if I am unsure about access?

Contact the GC500 Community Relations Team at gc@supercars.com or call the 24-hour Community Hotline on 0411 746 635.