# Small changes, big difference

### Everyone, everyday

- Take rubbish home, pick up litter, join a beach clean-up.
- Say no to plastic bags, use re-usable bags.
- Shade coastal lights, or turn them off.
- Ask Council for turtle-friendly coastal developments.
- Take care what you put down the drain, it all ends up in the sea.
- Only eat seafood from sustainable fisheries.



#### When turtles are nesting

- Don't light fires or drive on nesting beaches.
- Keep your pets leashed on the beach.
- Don't harass or shine lights on nesting turtles or emerging hatchlings.
- Don't pick up hatchlings; leave them to find the ocean unless they are going the wrong way.



#### In your boat

- Go slow over turtle feeding grounds such as seagrass beds and coral reefs.
- Don't throw old fishing line and nets into the sea.
- Don't anchor over seagrass beds or coral reefs.
- Take care not to lose bait bags overboard.

Brochure design: www.silentreef.com.au. Photos: Ian Bell; Rebecca Hovey; KnS Green; Barry Krueger; Eridani Mulder; Richard Quincey; Alan F. Rees / ARCHELON; David Roe / www.silentreef.com.au

### **Sea Turtle Foundation**

Sea Turtle Foundation is a non-profit, non-government organisation that protects and conserves endangered sea turtles through research, education and action.

We work with communities, hunters, scientists, governments and businesses to raise awareness, reduce impacts and remove threats.

Our current and recent projects include:

- ✓ Delivering a Marine Turtle and Dugong Awareness Program in Western Province, Papua New Guinea.
- ✓ Enabling volunteers to monitor nesting turtles.
- ✓ Funding James Cook University students to track sea turtle movements in north Australia.
- ✓ Delivering talks in primary schools.
- ✓ Using art to educate primary school pupils.
- ✓ Raising awareness of sea turtle issues through environmental days and talks to businesses.
- ✓ Monitoring nesting hawksbill turtles in the far north Great Barrier Reef.
- ✓ Advocating for more protection of marine areas.
- ✓ Producing educational materials.
- ✓ Removing marine debris.

### With your support we can do so much more

Your support keeps our researchers in the field, our educators in the community and our campaigners at the negotiating table.

Remember, your donation to Sea Turtle Foundation is tax deductible!



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# **Sea Turtles**



# born into oceans of trouble...



...join us to help them survive!

Turtles for Tomorrow

She will carefully bury her eggs in the sand.

In 2 months her hatchlings will dash for the ocean.

Many predators will try to catch them, this is natural.

But in today's humanmodified seas there are many more dangers lying in wait...



marine debris fishing nets fertilisers oil spills feral animals climate change pesticides cigarette butts propeller strikes littering fishing hooks coastal developments mass balloon releases plastic bags tourist souvenirs fibropapillomo tumours plastic bottles boat strikes land clearing egg poaching driving on nesting beaches coastal lights ghost nets

# The oceans once teemed with a billion sea turtles. Today all 7 species are close to extinction. Here are some reasons why.....

## **Marine Debris**



Turtles choke on our rubbish or get tangled and drown. Plastic bags and drink bottles take hundreds of years to degrade and can cause many deaths in that time.

# **Coastal Development**



Turtles lose their nesting beaches to developments. Home, factory and street lights close to beaches deter females from nesting and attract hatchlings away from the water.

### **Water Pollution**



Ocean water is polluted by household cleaning products, fertilisers, oil spills, pesticides and more. Water pollution leads turtles to develop tumours that can result in death.

### **Boat Strikes**



Turtles have poor vision and hearing on the surface and are easily hit by boats. They are most vulnerable over sea grass beds and coral reefs. Boat strikes injure or kill turtles.

# **Fishing**



Turtles get caught in fishing nets or abandoned "ghost nets" and drown. They take the bait from long lines and from drum lines meant to protect swimmers from sharks.

# **Climate Change**



Rising sea levels and bigger storms swamp and erode nesting beaches. Turtle gender is determined by sand temperature so global warming means too many females, not enough males.



It doesn't have to be this way. You can make a difference, you can help them survive!