

From the Fishers Mouth

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July is the hardest time of year to fish the Riverina with icy water leaving most fish barely eating enough to sustain life. Murray crays are the exception with about six weeks left in the open season for a chance to catch a meal of these tasty crustaceans.

In my past few columns I have discussed winter fishing options on the south coast and also the lower Murray, however for the next couple of weeks I shall be reporting from the Northern Territory.



Preparing for the long drive to the top end of Australia requires a lot of planning and careful preparation of car, boat and especially your trailer. With about 3500km of high speed driving there are several key factors to consider.

Your trailer should be very robust with extra strong axles and springs. Consideration should also be given to fitting shock absorbers to reduce the oscillation from rough roads. It goes without saying that grease should be applied to lubrication points along the way and that the trailer should be inspected at every stop.

The boat should be strapped to the trailer securely so that boat & trailer move as one unit. Even with the boat tightly bound to the trailer, rollers or skids are being constantly pummelled by the boat from above and the trailer frame from below. This battering can force the rollers down leaving the boat unsupported and prone to damage. The solution is to weld the roller brackets in place (once you have them in the correct position).

In order to protect the boat from gravel and rocks flicked up by the car, a stone guard should be fitted to the front of your trailer. A well fitting guard will keep the boat protected and also reduce damage to your lights and wiring. Phil-On Marine in Tumut and Wagga Marine can design and build custom guards to suit your boat.

It goes without saying that your tow vehicle must be freshly serviced with attention paid to tyres, cooling system, gearbox and tow bar.

It's a long drive with some slow bumpy sections, but also some fast smooth sections of highway, especially in the NT where 130km/h speed limits can apply. With a correctly set up trailer and tow vehicle (Dave's 3.0L turbo diesel Hilux) we were comfortably able to maintain these sorts of speeds for hours on end.

If you're planning a long trip towing your boat, spend some time in preventative maintenance and if you need some advice give us a call.