

What makes a vehicle unroadworthy?

According to Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads, roadworthy requirements depend on the modification and individual circumstances.

"Vehicle standards are in place to ensure any modified vehicle remains safe for use on the road," a spokesperson for the department said.

"A vehicle will be deemed unroadworthy if it is modified in a way that is not approved or certified.

"The Queensland Road Vehicle Modification (QRVM) Handbook sets out the approval and certification requirements for modifications to light vehicles — gross vehicle mass of not more than 4.5 tonnes.

"A modification is considered to be any change from the manufacturer's original specifications."

In Queensland, motorists who are caught driving a vehicle not in a safe condition could be fined \$275 and lose three demerit points.

4WDs common in modification cases

Senior Sergeant English said police in central Queensland often came across four-wheel-drives with modifications made to them.

"People modify them to go bush-bashing and up and down the sand," he said.

"They raise them and put big tyres on them.

"But they raise them too high which affects the stability, and they put wide, chunky tyres on that protrude outside the body of the vehicle which isn't allowed either."

He said the best advice he had was for people to use professional services when making modifications to their vehicles.

"Or if you are doing it yourself, speak to somebody who actually does roadworthy inspections or places like your four-wheel-drive stores that do these modifications all the time," he said.

"And when they say you can't do that, don't insist on getting it done anyway because you think it looks good."