

Cooloola Recreation Area

providing greater protection for Cooloola's beaches

Cooloola is a wonderful place for families to spend their holidays. It offers a number of recreational activities and several natural features we need to protect. More and more families are visiting this part of the world with good reason. The potential impact of these growing visitor numbers, with 4WD's, dogs and camping, on this region is causing increasing concern. We don't want Cooloola to be a victim of its own popularity and lose its significant appeal as a great destination. The new Cooloola Recreation Area increases the protection of Cooloola and ensures the values that make it such a special place are here to stay.

Land covered in the recreation area

The Cooloola Recreation Area commenced on 17 October 2010 and stretches from Noosa North Shore to Rainbow Beach. Covering 61 750 ha, the area includes the national park, various State and local government-managed areas such as roads, beaches and esplanades, as well as other land to the low water mark (see map on other side).

Recreation management

The Cooloola Recreation Area allows for sustainable and safe recreational use, and provides the framework for a coordinated management approach to issues and activities in the area.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service jointly manages the area with the regional councils.

Vehicle permits

Vehicle access permits (VAPs) are required to access the beaches and some inland tracks in the Cooloola Recreation Area. These permits are similar to those required at other iconic destinations such as Fraser Island and Moreton Island.

Daily, weekly, monthly and yearly vehicle permits are available.

Vehicle access permits allow the area to be better managed by generating revenue through a user-pay system. This revenue is used to provide better visitor facilities and services, and improve conservation and safety outcomes.

Fee-exempt vehicle permits may be available for:

- permanent residents and their relatives, and landholders who need to traverse the recreation area to access their properties
- people accessing the recreation area for employment or to conduct a trade or profession
- application, eligibility criteria and evidence of eligibility apply.

A 'fee exemption for vehicle access permits' application form must be completed. They can be found at www.derm.qld.gov.au or by visiting a DERM office.

Vehicle access permits are required for the following areas:

- from north head of the Noosa River to Middle Rocks, south-east of Rainbow Beach
- inland along the Freshwater Road between Bymien and the beach
- inland for the Kings Bore Circuit track (locally known as Pettigrew Road, and the eastern and western firebreaks)
- the Leisha track.

Refer to the map for areas where vehicle permits are required.

\$15.50 for one calendar day (\$10.35 if purchased over the internet)

\$25.90 for up to seven consecutive days

\$40.75 for up to 1 month

\$204.20 for up to 12 months

Beaches closed to vehicles

The beach between first and third cuttings on the Noosa North Shore at the southern end of Teewah Beach is closed with drivers required to use the inland bitumen bypass road. This provides a 2.5 km vehicle-free section of beach in front of the popular Beachfront Caravan Park camping area. This section is an ideal spot for families to enjoy without any risk of vehicle traffic problems.

The existing closure at the Noosa River mouth remains to protect nesting and roosting shorebirds. Signs are installed at these locations.

Dogs on Teewah Beach

Dogs are prohibited from the Cooloola Recreation Area, including dogs travelling in vehicles, except for a dog-friendly section of beach provided from First Cutting to the northern edge of Teewah Village.

Previously, some dogs have been allowed to roam unrestrained and interfere with traffic, campers, beach-goers and wildlife. Dogs disturb migratory and roosting shorebirds and have often entered the national park.



