

Byfield Area Management Plan

Frequently asked questions

What is the Byfield Area Management Plan?

The management plan sets out the directions that will guide day-to-day decisions about protecting and managing the Byfield Area.

What is the Byfield Area?

Byfield area consists of:

- Byfield National Park
- Byfield State Forest (areas managed by QPWS)
- Byfield Conservation Park
- a departmental and Official Purposes Reserve at Stockyard Point
- Corio Bay
- adjacent beaches to the national park.

When does the final plan take effect?

All actions of the plan have the potential to immediately come in to effect, but implementation will be a staged process over the next 10 years. As each major action is implemented, a staged on-site management, education and enforcement program will be applied.

Why is the Byfield Area Management Plan important?

The plan is a commitment by government to the community about how best to look after this popular and important place.

The plan identifies the natural and cultural features that make Byfield special, and how to manage and protect them. The plan covers:

- conserving the diversity and distribution of native plants and animals, particularly those species of conservation significance
- managing pests to minimise adverse impacts on natural values
- providing appropriate infrastructure and access for visitors
- improving collaborative management efforts, knowledge sharing, community awareness and increased participation.

Will this plan affect recreational fishing?

This plan does not affect recreational fishing. Fishing is still allowed in accordance with the Great Barrier Reef (Coast) zone plan.

Can I still launch my boat in Corio Bay?

Yes, natural launch sites will still be available at Sandy Point into Fishing Creek and at the northern beach on Corio Bay. Access from the east of Sandy Point will only be closed when vehicle access is clearly unsafe and disturbs nesting and roosting coastal birds. However, access to Fishing Creek via the internal track remains. At the northern beach, vehicles will not be permitted west beyond the boat launch.

Can I still drive to beaches in the area?

Yes, the plan allows for vehicle access to Nine Mile Beach, Five Rocks Beach and Farnborough Beach.

Can I drive along Five Rocks Beach?

The plan allows vehicles to access Five Rocks Beach via a designated track. Once at Five Rocks Beach, you will only be permitted to turn south to access the site for surfing, fishing, sight seeing and other recreational pursuits.

Turning north along Five Rocks Beach is prohibited and will be enforced to protect the natural and cultural values of the beach. These changes to access will be progressively implemented.

Can I still visit Orange Bowl?

Yes, walking access to Orange Bowl will continue and be upgraded. However, vehicle access to Orange Bowl will be discontinued as vehicles were posing significant safety and environmental risks. During the next few months, a shady walking track will be developed and the old vehicle track scars rehabilitated.

Can I still go camping?

Yes. There has been no change to where you can camp.

Can I still have a campfire?

Fuel stoves are recommended throughout the Byfield area as the safest and environmentally friendliest option. Where fires are permitted, visitors must bring their own clean milled timber. Collecting firewood from the Byfield area or bringing bush timber from elsewhere is not permitted.

Fireplaces are provided at Red Rock, Upper Stony and Water Park Creek campgrounds. At the Nine Mile Beach camping areas, campfires in an enclosed container, raised off the ground, are permitted. The ash and the temporary container must be removed when the camp is vacated.

What consultation was undertaken?

Both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and *Marine Parks Act 2004* provide statutory requirements that must be followed during consultation. These include:

- Minister's announcement of the intent to plan for the area, which was in 2006
- Minister's announcement that the draft plan has been prepared and the community is invited to provide comment, which was on 30 July 2008
- published announcements in state-wide newspapers providing instructions for stakeholders to provide comment (in this case, the consultation period was extended from six weeks to six months).

As well as the legislative consultation requirements, QPWS consulted regularly with:

- Stockyard Point residents
- Byfield Commercial operators
- Rockhampton Regional Council
- Livingstone Shire Community Reference Group
- Byfield Government Agency Reference Group
- Darumbal people
- Queensland Tourism Agency
- conservation groups
- recreation groups.

Where can I obtain a copy of the plan?

The plan is available for download from www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/byfield/

If you do not have access to the internet, a hard copy version can be obtained at:

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May 2010

For general enquiries contact the
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or visit www.derm.qld.gov.au