

Byfield National Park— Sandy Point is on the move

The loss of Sandy Point's spit has pushed drivers, birds and boaties into new areas. Balancing this use and the needs of nature requires a little give and take from all.

Natural changes to Sandy Point have changed boat and vehicle access

Coastal erosion, over the last 10 years, has washed away the sandy spit at Sandy Point, making it inaccessible to vehicles between mid and high tide from Farnborough Beach. Steep banks, soft sand and conditions that change overnight make boat launching difficult and sometimes impossible into Fishing Creek and Corio Bay.

- For safe beach driving, plan your trip two hours either side of low tide.
- Take care when launching or retrieving your boat.



Photo courtesy of John Augusteyn

You can help look after what is left

Protect plants to help bring Sandy Point back

The best way to ensure Sandy Point rebuilds in future is to look after all remaining plants and rehabilitation areas—they trap sand and help rebuild foredunes. You can help by driving and launching your boat only on bare sand, and parking at the car park. Remember not to drive on vegetation, rehabilitation areas or under trees.

Take a look at the photograph overleaf to see how much of the spit has disappeared since 2005.



Photo: © Qld Govt

Give shorebirds their space

Birds are using other nearby areas of the bay, including sandy areas in Fishing Creek. Vehicles, boats, people and dogs make birds waste vital energy reserves and leave their chicks unprotected. Ensure they survive their 25 000 km return trip next year by giving them space and following the directions of on-site signs.



International and local birds choose Corio Bay's tidal flats and beaches to rest and feed.

Photo: © Qld Govt

Dog-free beaches adjacent to Byfield National Park

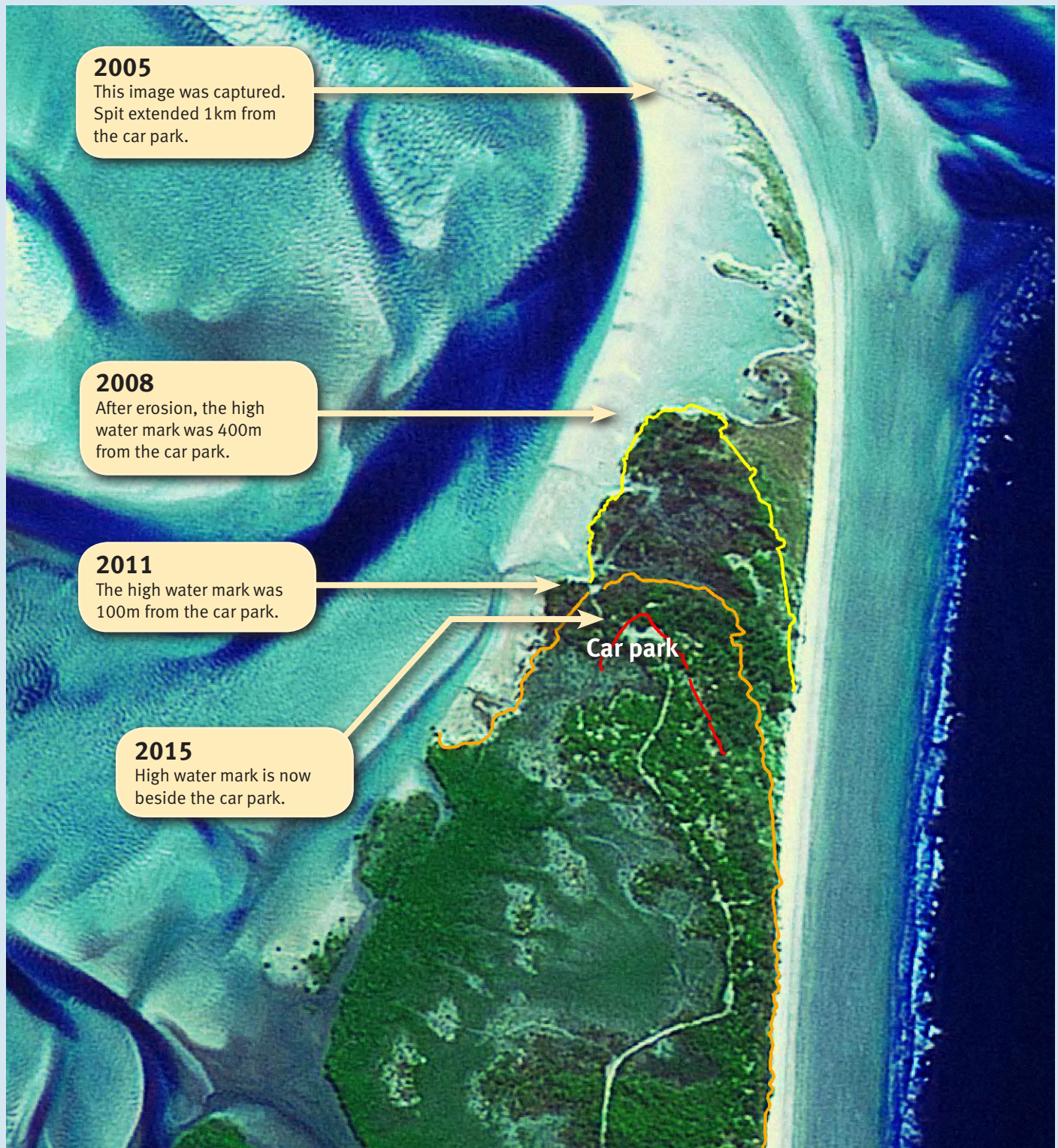
Dogs are not permitted on Farnborough Beach and Corio Bay beaches next to the national park section of Sandy Point. Dogs are permitted elsewhere on Farnborough Beach.

For further information, phone 07 4925 8000.



Satellite image highlights sand spit loss

Loss and accumulation of Sandy Point spit occurs naturally over time. Erosion can also be effected by vehicle use—more tracks mean more erosion at an increased rate. Compare the satellite image of 2005 to more recent years.



The spit at Sandy Point needs to regenerate. You can help protect the remaining plants by reducing your impact on the sandy foredunes. The weather can't be controlled but you can choose where you drive. Thank you for your support.