


Welcome to Byfield parks and forests

Long sandy beaches, spectacular headlands and many different forests make up:

Byfield National Park
Byfield Conservation Park, and
Byfield State Forest

Mayimbagu Darumbul nunthi *Welcome to Darumbal country*

Traditional Owners—the Darumbal people—welcome you to their country and ask that you respect and enjoy this special area.

 Dunes cloaked with heath
© Tourism and Events Qld
(ranger) Dustin Stewart © Qld Govt



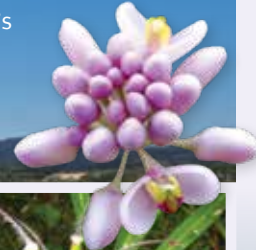
“Some of the most spectacular natural phenomena occur right here in Byfield’s parks and forests. I’m lucky to be able to see endemic flora in full bloom like the stunning *Grevillea venusta* along the banks of the Upper Stony swimming holes and the iconic Byfield fern thriving throughout the park. A stand out experience was camping along Nine Mile beach with family and friends watching humpback whales breaching only metres offshore as the sun set and the next day snorkelling around the headland listening to the whales sing through the water. I believe Byfield is truly a jewel in the crown of national parks across Queensland.

Ranger Aaron

Experience something different every day in this outstanding coastal wilderness. Whether you’re seeking an easy afternoon walk or a remote camping holiday—get set to explore.

Venture along 4WD tracks to discover massive parabolic sand dunes cloaked with heath, woodland and forest dominating the landscape. Walk, swim, kayak or just relax and take in the quiet surroundings of your camp site at your choice of spots. Further inland you’ll find a mosaic of lowland swamps, rainforest-lined creeks, pine plantations and rugged mountains to explore.

Marvel at rare and endangered plants found nowhere else, such as the Byfield fern and Byfield grevillea. The area supports both migratory and resident birds. Endangered little terns nest on Sandy Point’s shifting spit and vulnerable beach stone-curlews live and breed along the coast.



(top) Byfield matchstick; (middle) Byfield grevillea; (bottom) Byfield fern

© Matt Kayes

Getting there and getting around

Byfield’s parks and forests are a short 1 hour drive from North Rockhampton or 30 minutes from Yeppoon via the Yeppoon-Byfield Road. You can access Upper Stony, Red Rock and Water Park Creek visitor areas in Byfield State Forest via unsealed roads in a conventional vehicle. You’ll need a high-clearance 4WD with low-range capacity and sand driving experience to drive the challenging tracks (with deep sand in places) to Five Rocks Beach and Nine Mile Beach in Byfield National Park, or Five Rocks visitor area and Stockyard Point headland in Byfield Conservation Park. Sandy Point, located in the southern part of Byfield National Park can be accessed by high clearance 4WD via a rough unsealed road through land associated with Capricorn Resort or along Farnborough beach—remember vehicles are not permitted west of the northern end of the Sandy Point spit.

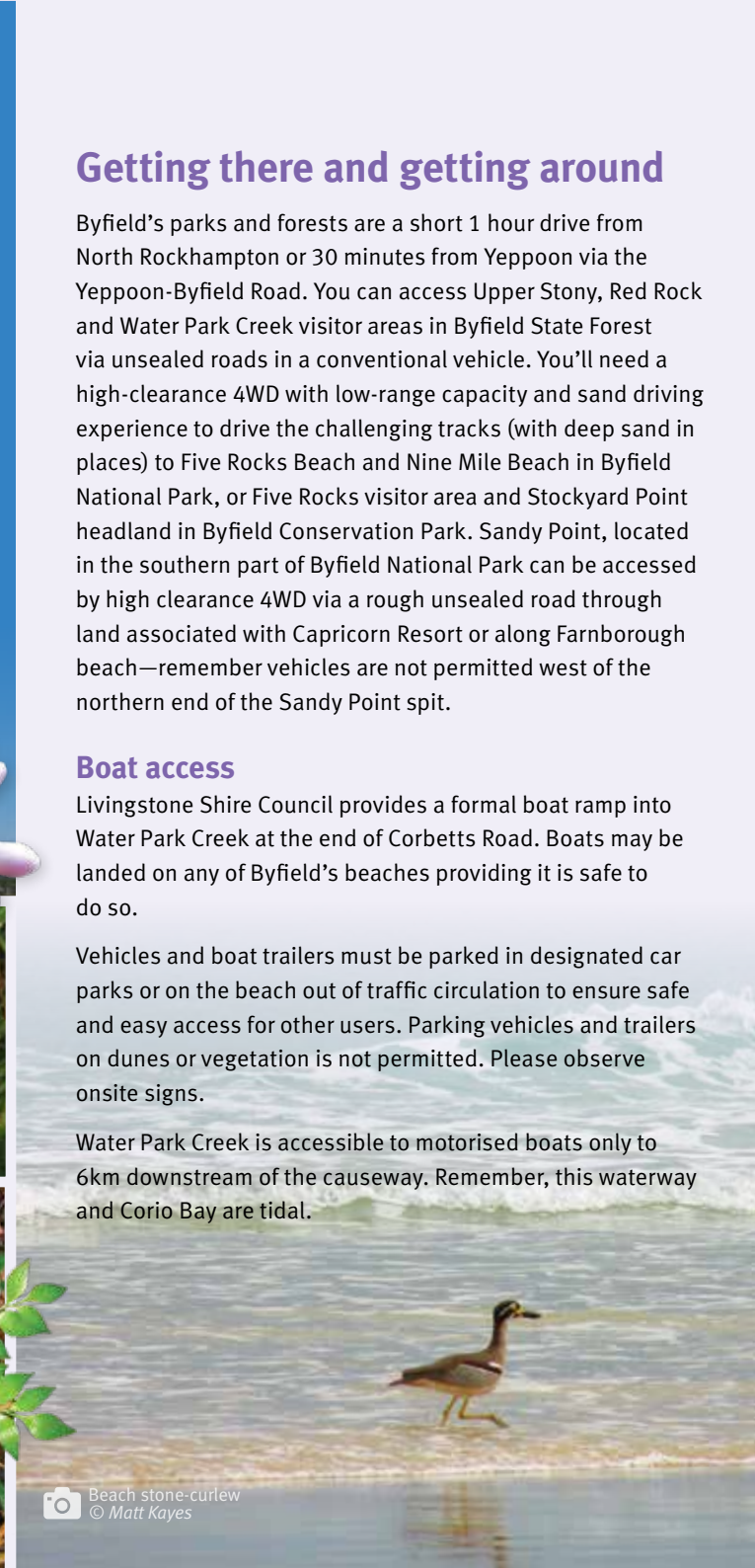
Boat access

Livingstone Shire Council provides a formal boat ramp into Water Park Creek at the end of Corbetts Road. Boats may be landed on any of Byfield’s beaches providing it is safe to do so.

Vehicles and boat trailers must be parked in designated car parks or on the beach out of traffic circulation to ensure safe and easy access for other users. Parking vehicles and trailers on dunes or vegetation is not permitted. Please observe onsite signs.

Water Park Creek is accessible to motorised boats only to 6km downstream of the causeway. Remember, this waterway and Corio Bay are tidal.

 Beach stone-curlew
© Matt Kayes



Beach driving

Driving on sand requires special care. Only take a 4WD that has high clearance with low range gear selection. Ensure your 4WD can cope with difficult conditions. Washouts, exposed rocks, and very soft sand can make driving on sand more challenging particularly after heavy rain and rough seas. Stay alert, drive to conditions, stick to normal road rules and don't take careless risks.

Remember: travel at low tide, or within 2 hours either side of low tide. Stay on the harder sand between the waterline and the high tide mark. Avoid the salt water and take care in creek crossings—you may become stuck. Keep left! Beach traffic is two-way. Please don't drive over turtles! They nest and hatch from November to March. Please don't run into birds! Beaches and dunes are their nesting and roosting places.



Did you know?

Due to its importance as a waterbird breeding habitat, Corio Bay and its tributary Water Park Creek are listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

 Drive to Stockyard Point headland along a palletted track.

Maxime Coquard © Tourism and Events Qld



Be adventurous

Choose your own adventure! The tracks through Byfield State Forest provide extensive walking, trail-bike riding and four-wheel-driving opportunities—but remember these are shared roads.

Fishing, boating and kayaking

Take to the water to fish or explore Byfield's magnificent waterways, bays and coastline.


Know what you can do where


Byfield's coastal waters and Corio Bay are part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. If planning to fish, check marine park zoning maps and fishing information at gbrmpa.gov.au and daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries

Dogs

Dogs are permitted in Red Rock camping area provided they are on a leash at all times. Dogs are **not permitted** in any other areas of Byfield State Forest, national park and conservation park, including all beaches.

Four-wheel drives and trail bikes

Byfield's 4WD and trail-bike riding opportunities are abundant. In fact just getting to Stockyard Point, Five Rocks or Nine Mile Beach is a memorable and scenic 4WD adventure requiring sand driving experience and vehicle recovery skills. Drivers must be licensed, drive only on marked tracks and stay off dunes. Vehicles must also be registered and enter or exit the beach only where signed . Unlawfully constructing tracks or modifying roads, tracks or fire lines is strictly prohibited. Obey all signs, keep speeds below 50km/h and watch out for pedestrians and other road users. For more detailed information visit qld.gov.au/NationalParks

 Take a dip in Upper Stony Creek
Naomi Scott © Qld Govt



Wildlife to spot


While exploring Byfield, take the time to look for some of its fascinating wildlife.

Witness the spectacle of thousands of wading birds roosting and feeding between September and March at Sandy Point and Corio Bay. Watch for migrating whales from Stockyard Point headland. Venture into the rainforest in search of water dragons, black-tailed monitors and fruit pigeons or try to identify the many different honeyeaters that feed in the flowering heathland behind the dunes.

Remember these special habitats are vulnerable to fire and weeds so please be mindful and venture softly.



Help QPWS Rangers to accurately profile dingoes. Email any information about any encounter with a dingo—good or not so good—to dingo.ranger@des.qld.gov.au. Include the time, date and location, nature of the encounter and any distinguishing features of the dingo. Photographs are very helpful for rangers monitoring movement, breeding and feeding patterns of dingoes.

 Baby water dragon (below); banksia (right)
© Matt Kayes



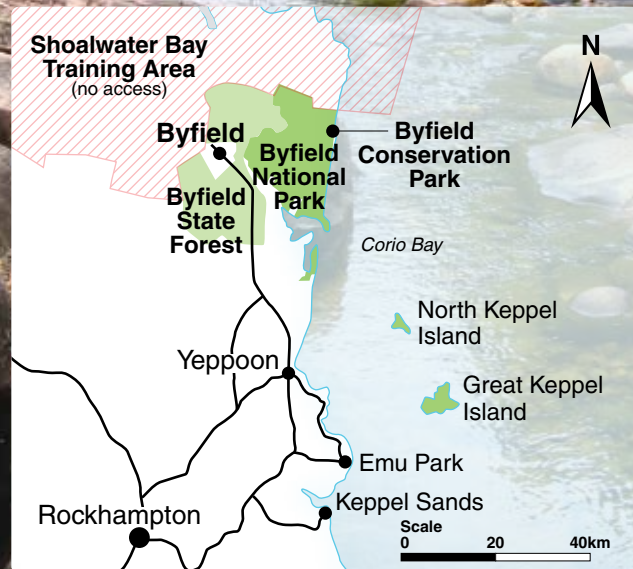
Further information


-  qld.gov.au/NationalParks
-  qld.gov.au/Camping
-  qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts
(access, closures and conditions)
-  [qldnationalparks](https://www.facebook.com/qldnationalparks)
-  [@QldParks; #QldParks](https://www.instagram.com/QldParks)



This brochure is also available online at qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures

For help with planning your holiday, visit queensland.com



 (Front cover) Looking north from Stockyard Point headland; (back cover) Upper Stony Creek, Byfield State Forest
© Matt Kayes



Swimming safety

- **Bullrouts live in freshwater creeks.** Their sting can be extremely painful. If stung by a bullrout when swimming, immerse the affected area in water as hot as you can tolerate without scalding for 20 minutes and seek immediate medical advice.
- **Byfield's beaches have no lifesaving service and some areas have strong currents.**
- **Marine stingers** are prevalent November to May but may be present all year.
- **Heavy local rain**, especially November to March, can cut access across creeks. Carry extra supplies and do not attempt to cross flooded creeks.



Be Crocwise

- **Estuarine crocodiles inhabit the area.** Take care particularly in and around Corio Bay and the lower reaches of Water Park Creek. Always observe onsite crocodile warning signs.

Camping at a glance

Byfield State Forest

Upper Stony camping area

A popular location in a pocket of native bush beside a picturesque freshwater stream. Camp sites 4–7 are suitable for caravans or motorhomes up to 4m. **BYO water.**



Water Park Creek camping area

Nestled in riparian forest, Water Park Creek is the perfect spot for bird enthusiasts and those wishing to see the Byfield fern. **BYO water.**



Choose your camp site

You can choose from a range of camping experiences in Byfield's parks and forests, from popular sites with facilities to more secluded sites in the fore-dunes with no facilities.

Beach camping? Use the access tracks. Don't drive on the dunes—the vegetation is quickly damaged but slow to recover. This is camping in the rough, so bring everything you need, including a portable toilet, to make your stay more comfortable. Remember you must contain camp fires off the ground, and take your rubbish with you when you leave—never bury it.

 Upper Stony camping area
Paul Harris © Qld Govt



Byfield Conservation Park

Five Rocks camping area

Popular with family groups, Five Rocks is surrounded by coastal woodlands and has access to a secluded and vehicle-accessible beach. Only camp sites 1–4 are suitable for 4WD vans and trailers (track and weather conditions permitting). **BYO water.**



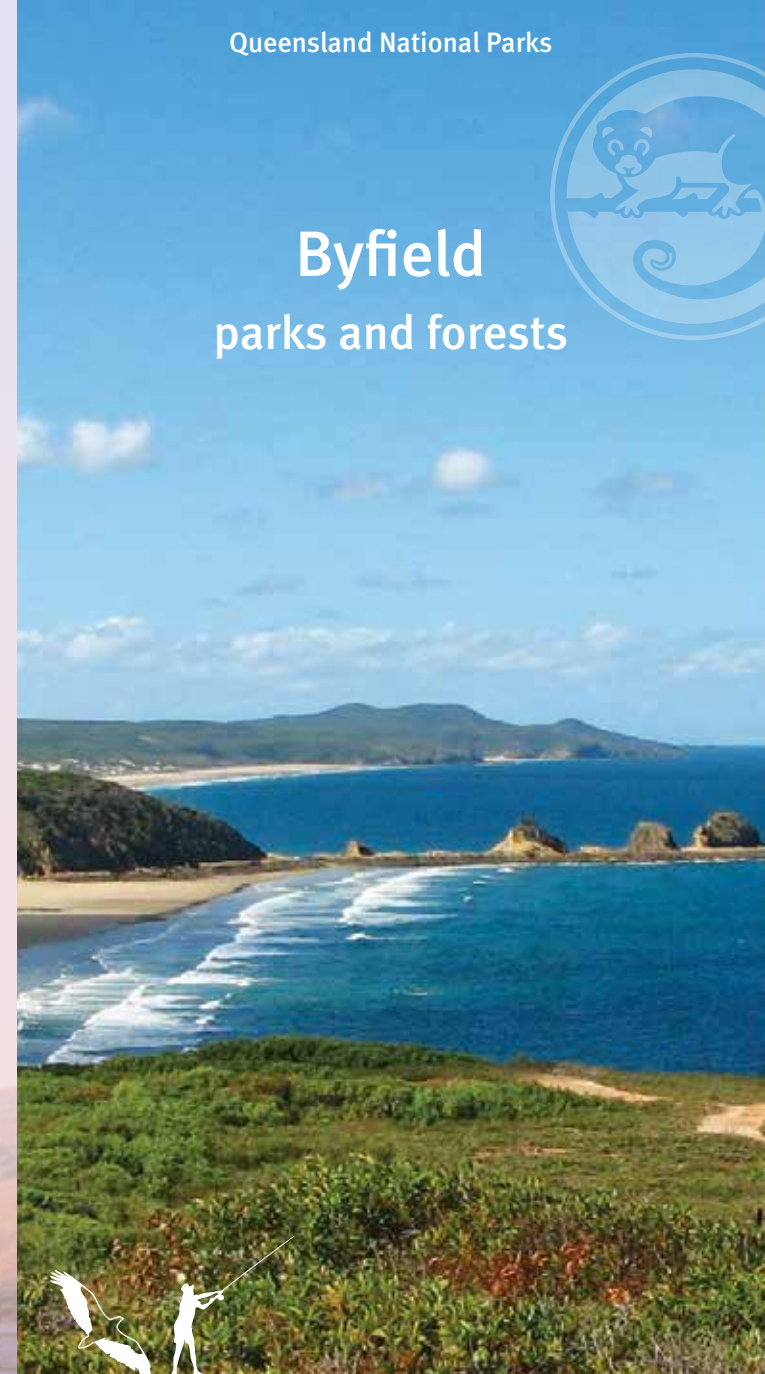
Red Rock camping area

Set amongst pine trees, with walk-in and vehicle-based camp sites. It is the only place in Byfield where visitors can camp overnight with their dog, providing it is leashed. **BYO water.**





Byfield parks and forests



Plan carefully

- Buy permits online at qld.gov.au/Camping before you arrive. Note: Byfield camping permits can only be issued for a maximum of 7 consecutive nights and are only valid for the number of people and specific camp site you have booked.
- Firewood is not provided. If campfires are allowed in your camping area, bring your own clean firewood such as untreated mill off-cuts and use the fire rings provided. You are not permitted to collect bush wood in any Byfield parks and forests. Campfires are not permitted during total fire prohibitions (QPWS) or total fire bans imposed by Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES).
- If generators are allowed in your camping area, they may be operated between 8am and 7pm and only if they have a sound rating of 65 decibels (2.0Kva) or less.
- Bring sealable containers for your food and rubbish so wildlife cannot get into it.
- **Bring sufficient drinking water as untreated water on-site is not suitable for consumption.**
- Avoid bush toileting. Use toilets provided or bring your own portable toilet. Empty any toilet waste at disposal sites only, not into public toilets.
- Help stop the spread of weeds. Wash camping gear, boots and tyres before visiting Byfield.
- Stay informed—regularly check park alerts at qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts for park conditions and closures.

Explore safely

- Queensland road rules apply on beaches and tracks.
- **Watch for vehicles.** Be alert for vehicles at all times, especially on Farnborough and Nine Mile beaches and on causeways at Upper Stony and Water Park Creek.
- **Don't get trapped.** Wildfires and cyclones can move quickly. Be prepared to pack up and leave early when warnings are issued. Check local ABC radio for updates.
- **Douse all fires completely with water.** Embers in fire rings stay extremely hot for hours and can cause serious burns.
- **Never walk or swim alone.** Always tell family or friends where you are going and when you expect to return.
- **Wear protective clothing.** Venomous bites and heat exhaustion are a danger on land and in the water. Wear sun protective clothing and sunscreen during the day. Good sturdy footwear is recommended to protect against stings and bites on land and in the water.
- **Watch out for wildlife.** Be aware of your surroundings at all times and heed wildlife warning signs. Never put your hands and feet under rocks and logs. Native animals, especially dingoes, can become bold and aggressive if fed. Keep food and scraps stored securely in closed containers or your vehicle so animals are not attracted to your camp.
- **Fish bright at night!** Use high-visibility vests and reflective stickers when beach fishing.

Park

Byfield National Park

Nine Mile Beach camping areas

Myrtella, Melaleuca, Pandanus and Casuarina camping areas

Camp sites are nestled in the fore-dunes with easy access to the beach. Accessed by high-clearance 4WD only.

BYO toilet and water.

You must bring your own fire container and clean, milled timber for firewood, and take it and all coals and ash home with you. Fire containers must have legs to keep the fire off the ground and sides must be fully enclosed.



Scouts camp

Water Park Point headland

Small secluded beach camp site with views over Corio Bay and Sandy Point. Accessed only by water.

BYO toilet and water.



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Byfield walks

Many of the walks listed below are suitable for beginners but require a moderate to good level of fitness. All tracks in State forest areas may be closed at times due to routine forestry operations. For your safety, please heed all safety and track closure signs and visit the HQPlantations Queensland website at hqplantations.com.au

Walking at a glance

Check our walking track classifications (below) to find the track that suits your age, fitness and experience.

Byfield State Forest

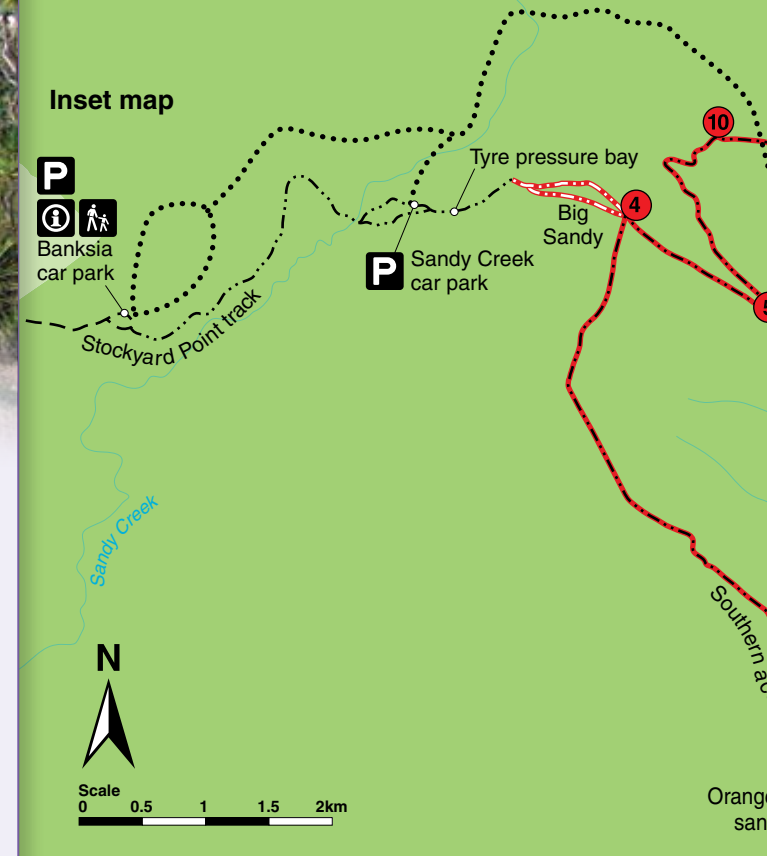
Track name	Grade	Distance	Walk time
Venusta circuit at Upper Stony	2	900m return from Upper Stony Creek visitor area Stroll along the creek valley through pockets of Byfield grevillea, which flower in spring.	20min
Bowenia rainforest circuit at Water Park Creek	2	1.2km return from Water Park Creek day-use area Catch glimpses of Water Park Creek through small openings in tall turpentine forest and enjoy the cool rainforest that features the ancient fern-like cycad, <i>Bowenia serrulata</i> (Byfield fern).	30min

Byfield National Park and Conservation Park

Track name	Grade	Distance	Walk time
Banksia circuit	4	2km return from Banksia car park Visit the swamplands and marvel at the contrast of hardy banksia leaves against tiny-leaved wet heaths and swamp ferns.	1hr
Creek to Coast	5	12km one way (from Banksia car park to Five Rocks visitor area). Walk the complete cross-section creek to coast; foothills of weathered range, creek crossings, parabolic dunes and the meeting points between them. For an extended adventure, stay overnight at Five Rocks camping area and return on the same track to Banksia car park. Remember to book your campsite in advance.	5hr one way
Stockyard Point headland	2	540m return from Stockyard Point From the top lookout enjoy uninterrupted coastal views to the north and south. Stroll further along the headland to enjoy a more sheltered lookout to the Keppel Islands group. Please remember the top lookout is an emergency air evacuation point—do not block the road with your vehicle.	20min
Little Five Rocks beach	4	1km return from Five Rocks visitor area (access also from Findlays Creek car park) Passing Findlays Creek wetland and shady pandanus stands, follow a picturesque stepped track to vehicle-free Little Five Rocks Beach.	1hr
		Undefined	

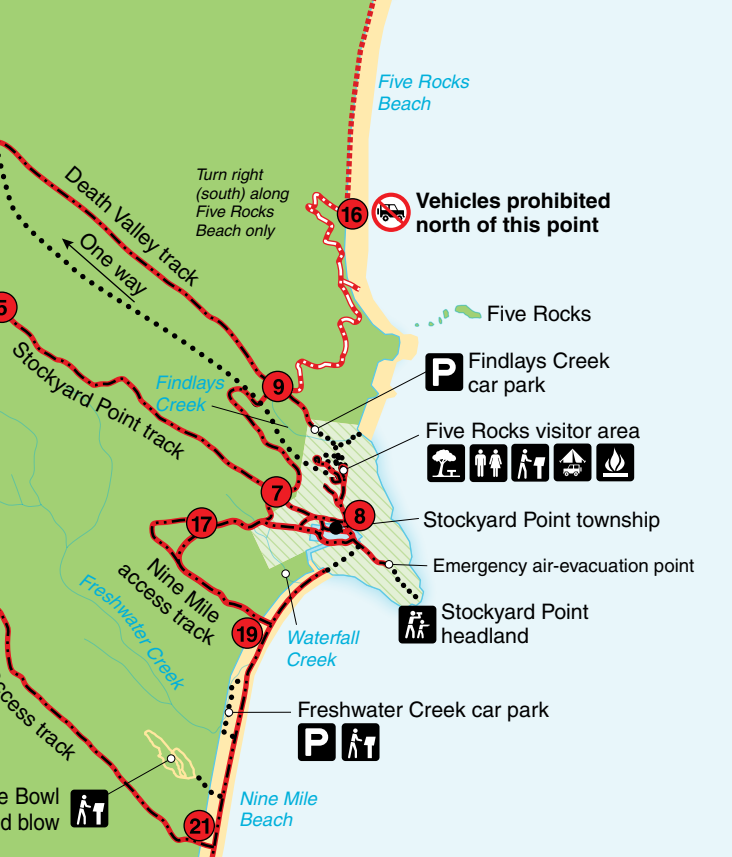


Take a stroll along Little Five Rocks beach walking track, Byfield Conservation Park
© Matt Kayes



Check qld.gov.au/NationalParks for up-to-date maps.





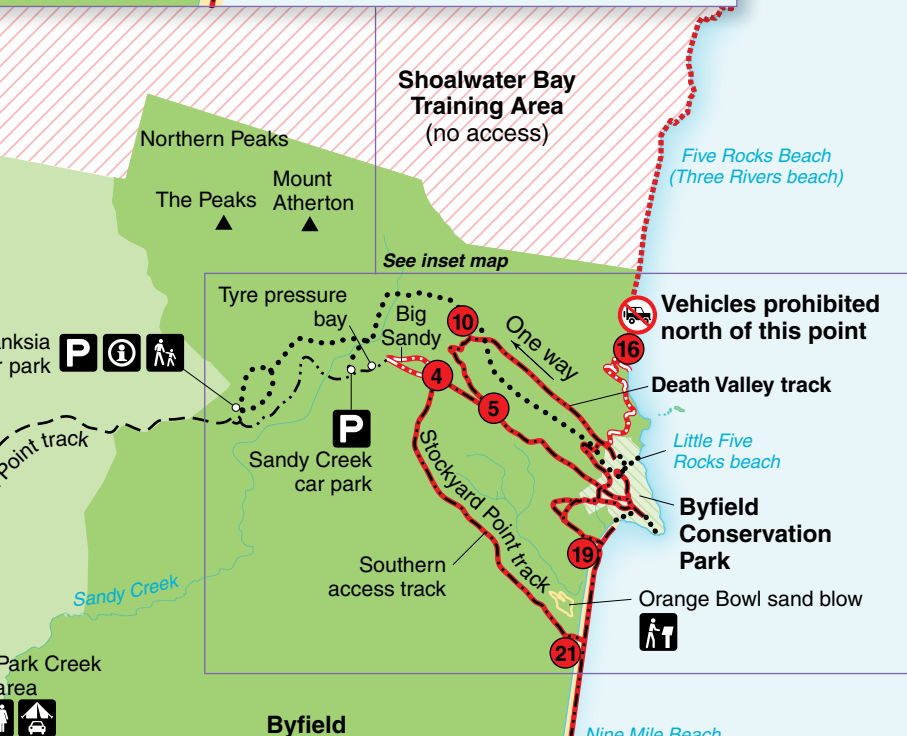
Legend

- Byfield National Park
- Byfield Conservation Park
- Byfield State Forest
- Shoalwater Bay Training Area (no access)
- Ocean
- Beach
- Creek
- 2WD sealed road
- 2WD unsealed road
- 4WD easy
- 4WD medium
- 4WD difficult
- No vehicle access
- 4WD track junction number
- Walking track

- Information
- Parking
- Day-use area
- Toilet
- Wheelchair access
- Camping
- Boat camping
- Car camping
- 4WD camping
- Camper trailer
- Camper trailer—4WD
- Caravan

- Campervan
- Fires permitted—in fire rings only
- Fires permitted—contained off ground
- Barbecue—gas
- Generator use permitted
- Walking
- Self-guided walk
- Viewpoint
- Dogs on leash permitted
- General store
- Petrol

- Water—*treat before drinking*
- Marine stingers
- Bullrouts
- Crocodiles
- No vehicle access
- No bin provided
- Domestic animals prohibited
- Fires prohibited



Ranger favourites

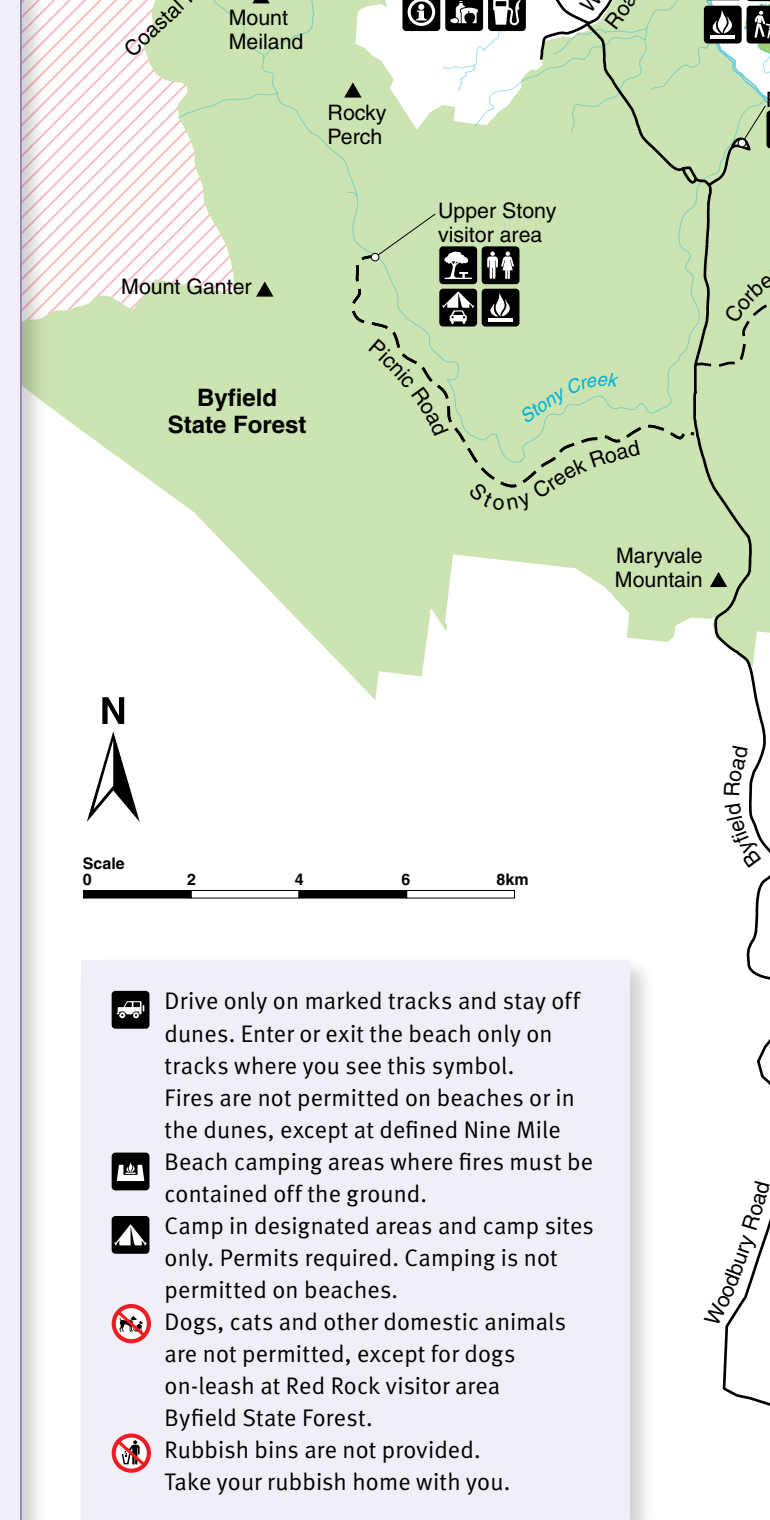
“My favourite part of Byfield is the trip out to Stockyard Point headland. Driving through the tea tree country, crossing Sandy Creek, conquering Big Sandy and winding through the eucalypt woodland with a heavy grasstree understorey and then arriving at the headland with the expectation of what is going to appear in the ocean in front of you. Will today be whales, dolphins, turtles or all three? The view south along Nine Mile Beach or north over Five Rocks onto Five Rocks Beach is always spectacular no matter what the weather is.”
Ranger Paul



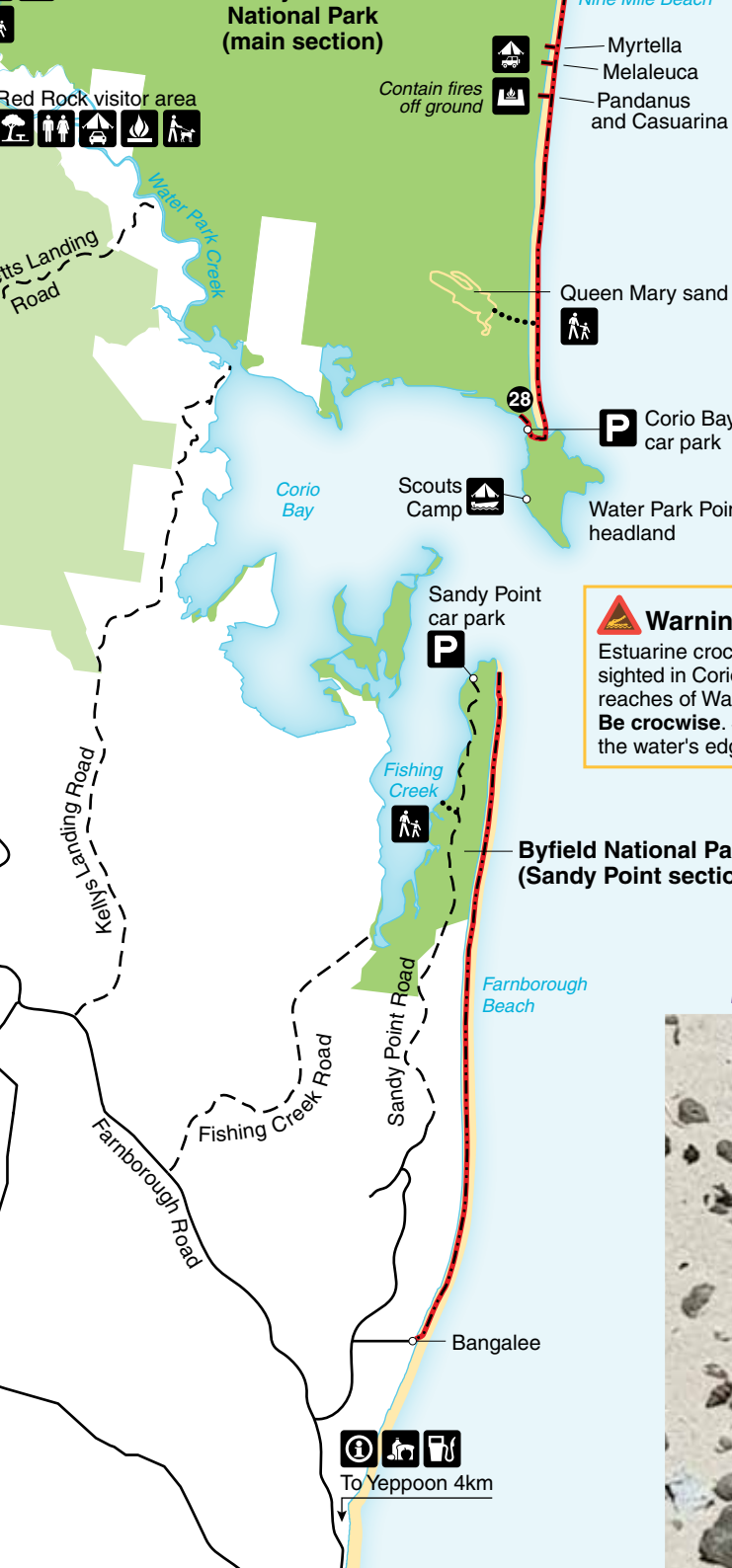
Little Five Rocks headland and beyond	4	From Little Five Rocks beach track, continue 900m north along the beach at low tide to explore the headland and then Five Rocks Beach beyond. Check tide times before leaving.	3 to 4hr
Freshwater Creek	2	500m return (track entrance 400m south of Nine Mile Beach access track/junction 19) Park at the mouth of Freshwater Creek and stroll 250m to picnic among shady she-oaks beside the creek—take a towel for a freshwater splash along the way.	30min
Orange Bowl sand blow	4	1.45km return (track entrance 1.4km south of Nine Mile Beach access track/junction 19) Stroll just 250m on a well-formed track through shady foredunes to the base of Orange Bowl sand blow. Continue another 475m across exposed sand to enjoy panoramic views over Byfield's coast and hinterland. Take a picnic but plan to walk in the cool of the day.	1hr
Queen Mary sand blow	4	4km return (track entrance 9.9km south of Nine Mile Beach access track/junction 19) Explore Queen Mary sand blow, Byfield's largest active sand blow on the southern end of Nine Mile Beach. The track is marked from the beach to the base of the sand blow only.	2hr
Stockyard Point access track	4	2.15km return from northern end of Nine Mile Beach (550m north of Nine Mile Beach access track/junction 19) From the northern end of Nine Mile Beach climb Stockyard Point headland and walk to the eastern-most lookout for uninterrupted views north and south along the coast and out to Keppel Islands group.	1hr
Water Park Point headland	5	Undefined Navigate around Water Park Point headland at low tide to enjoy secluded beaches and views of Corio Bay. Only attempt this walk if you are fit and have navigation and rock-scrambling experience. Sturdy footwear with good grip is required. Leave at least 2 hours before low tide to ensure you have enough time to return safely.	4hr
Fishing Creek (Sandy Point section)	3	800m return Take a short walk to Fishing Creek at low tide through mangroves and salt flats. A small sign marks the start of the walk.	20min

Walking track classifications

Grade	Symbol	Suits	Track description
2		Families with young children	No bushwalking experience required. Track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.
3		Most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended.	Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20km.
4		Bushwalking experience recommended.	Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.
5		Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid.	Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20km.



- Drive only on marked tracks and stay off dunes. Enter or exit the beach only on tracks where you see this symbol. Fires are not permitted on beaches or in the dunes, except at defined Nine Mile
- Beach camping areas where fires must be contained off the ground.
- Camp in designated areas and camp sites only. Permits required. Camping is not permitted on beaches.
- Dogs, cats and other domestic animals are not permitted, except for dogs on-leash at Red Rock visitor area Byfield State Forest.
- Rubbish bins are not provided. Take your rubbish home with you.



Warning
 Estuarine crocodiles have been sighted in Corio Bay and the lower reaches of Water Park Creek. **Be crocwise.** Stay back from the water's edge.



Titanium sands where Findlays Creek meets the sea, Byfield Conservation Park
 © Matt Kayes



Red-capped plover
 Dustin Stewart © Qld Govt

