

Information for visitors to Cooloola Recreation Area

24hr number plate surveillance cameras in use

Vehicles in Cooloola Recreation Area may have their vehicle number plates recorded by fixed or mobile cameras.

A penalty of \$518 (from 1 July 2026) applies for entering a recreation area without a valid vehicle access permit. The penalty amount may increase each financial year from 1 July.

Vehicle registration details are checked against the Queensland National Parks Booking Service and a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) will be issued to the registered owner of any vehicle that does not have a valid vehicle access permit.

Vehicle access permits are not required for vehicles traversing:

- Cooloola Way
- Harrys Hut Road
- Poverty Point Road
- Rainbow Beach to Middle Rocks
- Freshwater Road to Bymien day-use area (2WD).

Four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles are required for traversing Cooloola Recreation Area. Off-road motorbikes (with full road use registration) are permitted in the recreation area. Two-wheel drive vehicles are only suitable along Freshwater Road to Bymien day-use area, where vehicle access permits are not required.

Under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* section 109(1) it is an offence to take, drive or ride a motor vehicle in a recreation area without a vehicle access permit or under a commercial activity permit or commercial activity agreement. Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

How to avoid a fine

Before entering the recreation area:

- Ensure you have a valid vehicle access permit for Cooloola Recreation Area.
- **Check your number plate details on your vehicle access permit are correct. Cameras scan all number plates and cross check these with our booking service. If they don't match you will receive a fine.**



Purchasing your vehicle access permit

- Online using the Queensland National Parks Booking Service at qld.gov.au/Camping
- Over-the-counter at a booking office. Visit qld.gov.au/CampingBookingOffices for locations.



Scan for
Queensland
National Parks
Booking Service

Hiring a vehicle or purchasing a vehicle with a vehicle access permit

On each occasion a rental vehicle is in the recreation area, the person who hired the vehicle for that occasion must be the person who applies for the vehicle access permit. The same applies if you have recently purchased a 4WD that has a vehicle access permit. Permits are not transferrable and you must purchase a vehicle access permit under your own name for the vehicle.

Driving tips for Cooloola Recreation Area:

- Speed limits apply on the beach, on all inland tracks and at camping areas. Keep an eye out for speed zone signs.
- Stay on designated inland tracks, beach access points and beaches. Keep to the harder sand between the waterline and the high tide mark for the firmest driving surface.
- Beach driving is recommended 2 hours either side of low tide.
- Do not park on dunes or vegetated areas. Turtles and birds nest above the high water mark.
- **All Queensland road rules apply. Police regularly patrol the recreation area.**

Your privacy is protected

All camera footage is stored securely and will only be viewed and accessed by authorised persons. The footage is retained in accordance with the *Public Records Act 2002*, which in most cases is 30–90 days, unless it is required for official purposes, or retained as public record. For further information on our privacy and security practices visit detsi.qld.gov.au/help/legal/privacy

Further information



qld.gov.au/Cooloola