K’gari (Fraser Island) conditions report

General alerts
Reviewed 04 January 2021

COVID-19

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) continues to monitor and receive guidance from the Government in relation to COVID-19 health and safety information. All visitors should practice social distancing, and hygiene protocols.

Fire Prohibition:
Open fires must not be lit on QPWS managed areas of K’gari, except in fire rings at Dundubara and Waddy point camping areas where visitors must supply their own clean, untreated milled timber for firewood, bring fuel or gas stoves for cooking.

Marine Stingers: Marine stingers and other dangerous marine life are present, especially during the summer months, in the waters off K’gari. Marine Stingers can cause serious injury or death. Swimming is not recommended.

Swimming: Swimming in the ocean off K’gari is not recommended and is undertaken at own risk. The beaches of K’gari are unpatrolled with strong ocean currents – drownings have occurred. Take care around all lakes and creeks and at rocky shores with unpredictable waves, depth can be unpredictable, avoid submerged vegetation. Even a great swimmer can get into trouble - always swim with a buddy.

Sandy Cape Turtle Season vehicle restriction: Vehicles are prohibited on the beach between South Ngkala Rocks and Sandy Cape Lighthouse between the hours of 6pm to 6am, from 15 November 2020 to 31 March 2020. Stay safe at Lake Wabby: DANGER – Running, jumping, boarding, sliding down the dunes or diving into the lake can cause serious injury or death. Serious spinal injuries have occurred as a result of these activities.

Wongari (Dingo) warnings – Be dingo-safe!

Give wongari (dingoes) space, K’gari is their place. View wongari from at least 20 metres away. It is illegal to disturb or feed wongari (dingo), which includes attracting them with food or food waste. On K’gari, increased maximum fines of $10,676 and on-the-spot fines of $2,135 are now in place for people who break the law and engage in this dangerous behaviour.

Feeding wongari is wrong. Due to a few people feeding or behaving inappropriately some wongari have become habituated. These wongari are less likely to learn essential survival skills and are more likely to be approached by vehicles or show aggression towards people.

An increase in wongari-human interactions is expected during the summer holiday season. This is a particularly important time for juvenile dingoes to test their strength, learn essential survival skills and to avoid habituation towards people. Juveniles will quickly learn bad habits such as stealing food around camp sites instead of learning natural hunting skills.

Summer means:
- Juvenile dingoes are learning pack rules through play and showing aggressive behaviour to gain dominance.
- Young dingoes may try to dominate people, especially children.

Visitors, tour operators and residents are advised to be dingo-safe!

- NEVER feed wongari. You may face heavy penalties, attracting wongari or leaving food available puts people and wongari at risk.
- Always stay within arm’s reach of children, even small teenagers - WONGARI MOVE QUICKLY! KEEP CHILDREN CLOSE.
- Walk in groups and carry a stick - This may discourage a wongari from approaching you.
- Do not run – Running or jogging can trigger a negative wongari interaction.
- Camp in fenced areas where possible - Ensure all gates are securely closed.
- Lock up food stores and iceboxes (even on a boat).
- Never store food or food containers in tents - Wongari will seek out food, rubbish, fish and bait, and can chew through light plastic containers.
- Secure all rubbish, fish and bait – Dispose of rubbish at waste transfer stations. Bury fish scraps in a deep hole away from campsites & townships.
- When visiting lakeshores, take no food or drinks (except water).

Areas of concern – Eurong beachfront, Eli Creek, Maheno, Lake McKenzie, Waddy Point beachfront and Orchid Beach. Due to increased human-wongari interactions, extra vigilance is required in these areas.

If you feel threatened by a wongari – STAY CALM; maintain eye contact and do not turn your back on the wongari; alert other people; back away to a safe area, preferably a vehicle or fenced area.

Report wongari interactions or people feeding wongari – Photos and videos may assist us; take note of location, ear-tag colour, number and which ear. Email dingo.ranger@des.qld.gov.au, tell a ranger, or phone (07) 4127 9150. For emergencies requiring urgent medical assistance, call 000 immediately.

Camping and day-use areas
Reviewed 04 January 2021

From 23 December 2020 the following camping areas will be open to visitors:
- Beach camping zones 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 & 8.
- Eli Creek fenced camping area.
- Dundubara campground.
- Waddy Point beachfront camping.
- Waddy Point top and beachfront camping areas.
- Wathumba campground.
- Western beach camping (Bowel, Awinya, Bowarrady, Woralie, Coongul, Moon Point boat camping).

Track and beach conditions - warranting caution
Reviewed 04 January 2021

From 23 December 2020 visitors will have access to:
- As a result of severe weather, Ngkala Rocks is currently impassable and is closed to all traffic.
- Beach access along the eastern beach. This will allow visitors to travel to K’gari’s townships, resorts, private accommodation, and island businesses.

Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village, Lake McKenzie, Pile Valley, Central Station, Wanggoolba Creek and Eurong. With note:
- The only access to/from the eastern beach to the above sites is via Eurong, Dilli Village or Cornwells Road.

- The Wanggoolba creek to Eurong Road is open giving access to the River Heads/Wanggoolba Creek barge service.
- Southern Lakes Scenic Drive (Lake Birrabeen, Lake Boomanjin), Woralie & Awinya roads.
- Wathumba Creek via the Wathumba-Orchid Beach track.

Ngkala Rocks – due to current conditions Ngkala Rocks is currently impassable and is closed until further notice.

Walking track conditions
Reviewed 04 January 2021

From 15 December 2020 visitors will have access to:
- Lake Wabby walking track and toilet facilities.
- The Champagne Pools (Middle Rocks) and the associated carparks and toilet facilities.

Please note all other walking tracks are temporarily closed.

QPWS staff are working hard alongside the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and local businesses to do everything they can to both ensure safety and open all of the island to tourists as soon as possible.
Updated 04 January 2021

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Be dingo-safe!
- NEVER feed wongari (dingoes).
- Always stay within arm’s reach of children, even small teenagers.
- Walk in groups and carry a stick.
- Do not run. Running or jogging can trigger a negative wongari interaction.
- Camp in fenced areas where possible.
- Look up your food stores and iceboxes (even on a boat).
- Never store food or food containers in tents.
- Secure all rubbish, fish and bait.
- Follow wongari safety advice provided with permits and on signs throughout the island.

Campfires are prohibited on QPWS managed areas of K’gari (Fraser Island)

Marine wildlife including sharks and marine stingers are present in the waters off K’gari (Fraser Island). Swimming is not recommended.

**WARNING:**
- Look and listen for aircraft landing and taking off along the eastern beach. Follow direction from ground control crew.
- Mobile phone reception is limited. Contact your mobile network provider for service coverage.

While this information was prepared with care, it is based on the best available information at the time and is indicative only. Visitors are reminded that conditions change constantly due to climatic fluctuations and other factors. No liability is accepted by the Queensland Government for any decisions or actions taken on the basis of this information.