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

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

"Byfield is a great place to spend time out and about with family and friends. There’s a variety of places to explore—beaches, sandblows, rainforest rivers and different campsites to suit everyone. Wildlife enthusiasts will be thrilled with the abundance of birdlife, mammals and marine life to observe. My favorite spot is the headland at Stockyard Point—looking at the fantastic views up and down the coastline and in whale season seeing and hearing one of the world’s wonders up close.

Ranger Naomi"

Getting there and getting around

An hours’ drive from North Rockhampton or 30 minutes from Yeppoon via the Yeppoon-Byfield Road, lies Byfield’s parks and forests. 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 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

Rockhampton Regional 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 follow any directions on-site.

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

Choose your own adventure! The tracks through Byfield State Forest provide extensive walking, trail biking 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. Dip your oar into the cool, clear waters of Water Park Creek or spend the day out on the ocean in your boat.

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 gbmpa.qld.gov.au and daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries

Dogs
Providing they are on a leash, dogs are permitted at Red Rock. You cannot take your dog in Byfield State Forest visitor areas, in the national park, conservation park or on any beach.

Four-wheel drives and trail bikes
Byfield’s dirt tracks and sand 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 licenced, 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 hour and watch out for pedestrians and other road users. For more detailed information visit qld.gov.au/nationalparks

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 and 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, venture softly, take only photos and only leave footprints.
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 to take your rubbish with you when you leave, don’t bury it.

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

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.

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.

Red Rock camping area

Set among pine trees, close to the main road. It is the only place in Byfield where visitors can camp overnight with their dog, providing it is leashed.

Byfield Conservation

Five Rocks camping area

Popular with family groups, is surrounded by coastal walk access to a secluded and vell beach. Only camp sites 2–4 suitable for 4WD vans and cars (track and weather conditions apply).

Be Croc-Wise

Swimming safety

- Estuarine crocodiles inhabit the area. Take care particularly in and around Corio Bay and the lower reaches of Water Park Creek.
- Bullrout 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.
- Byfields 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.

Explore safely

- Take care if you are fishing, boating or using a recreational water vehicle. Never walk or swim alone.
- Always tell family or friends where you are going and when you are expected to arrive.
- Use high-visibility vests and life jackets when on and near water. They大幅提升 your chances of being rescued.
- Be alert for vehicles at all times, particularly near causeways at Upper Stony and Water Park Creek.
- Be aware of vehicles using sealed roads and unsealed causeways that intersect creeks and connecting causeways and road access, particularly in and around Corio Bay and the lower reaches of Water Park Creek.
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 seven 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.

- Bury all fish cleaning refuse—offal, fish frames, unused bait—at least 30cm deep and below the high tide mark.


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 they are not attracted to your camp.

- **Fish bright at night!** Use high-visibility vests and reflective stickers when beach fishing.

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 for swimming, fishing or walking. 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 or on foot at low tide from Corio Bay car park at the southern end of Nine Mile Beach.

**BYO toilet and water.**
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, including Venusta and Stony Creek walking circuits departing from Upper Stony, 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, bottom right, to find the track that suits your age, fitness and experience.

### Byfield State Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Walk time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venusta Circuit at Upper Stony</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>900m return from Upper Stony Creek visitor area</td>
<td>20mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stroll along the creek valley through pockets of Byfield grevillea, which flower in spring.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stony Creek Circuit at Upper Stony</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.3km return from Upper Stony day-use area</td>
<td>4hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wander beside picturesque Stony Creek through eucalypt forest and mature exotic pines with heath understorey. Enjoy a quick dip in Stony Creek at Freemans Crossing to cool off. Logging operations may close this track at any time, check hqplantations.com.au website for information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowenia Rainforest Circuit at Water Park Creek</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.2km return from Water Park Creek day-use area</td>
<td>30mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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, <em>Bowenia serrulata</em> (Byfield fern).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Byfield National Park and Conservation Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Walk time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banksia Robur Circuit</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2km return from Banksia car park</td>
<td>1hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visit the swamplands and marvel at the contrast of hardy banksia leaves against tiny-leaved wet heaths and swamp ferns.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Creek Circuit</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2km return from the Sandy Creek car park</td>
<td>1hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take a short walk to experience a mosaic of microclimates and plant communities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>540m return from Stockyard Point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Byfield walks

Banksia Robur Circuit

Track name | Class | Distance | Walk time
---|---|---|---
Banksia Robur Circuit | Walking track | 2km return from Banksia car park | 1hr

Little Five Rocks Beach

Track name | Class | Distance | Walk time
---|---|---|---
Little Five Rocks Beach | Walking track | 2km return from the Sandy Creek car park | 1hr

Stockyard Point

Track name | Class | Distance | Walk time
---|---|---|---
Stockyard Point | Walking track | 540m return from Stockyard Point | 30mins

Byfield National Park and Conservation Park

Topo map inset

Ranger favourites

My favourite part of Byfield is the trip out to Stockyard headland. Driving through the tea tree country, crossing Sandy creek, conquering Big Sandy and winding through the eucalypt woodland with a heavy grass tree 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
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<th>Distance</th>
<th>Walk time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stockyard Point headland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Five Rocks Beach</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Five Rocks Headland and beyond</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 to 4hrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Creek</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Bowl</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Mary</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2hrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockyard Point Access Track</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Park Point headland</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4hrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Creek (Sandy Point section)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20mins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For your safety, please heed all safety and track closure signs and visit the HQPlantations Queensland website at hqplantations.com.au for up-to-date maps.

Check qld.gov.au/nationalparks for up-to-date maps.
**Byfield National Park and Conservation Park**

- Sandy Creek Circuit
- Little Five Rocks Beach
- Stockyard Point
- Freshwater Creek
- Orange Bowl

### Walking track classifications

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