Moreton Island conditions report

Distance markers are located on the ocean beach at 2 km intervals north (N followed by an even number) and south (S and an odd number) of Middle Road. In an emergency dial 000 or if no mobile reception try 112. If calling from ocean beach, advise operator of your closest distance marker. (Marker positioning not to scale)

Legend
- Recreation area
- Settlements
- Sand
- No vehicle access
- 20 km/hr zone
- 30 km/hr zone
- Special protection zone and low tide access only
  - 4WD vehicle track
  - Walking track
  - Creeks
  - Rocks, intermittently exposed
  - Camping area
  - Toilets
  - Water (treat before use)
  - Bins
  - Information
  - N2 - Distance markers

Caution: The beach between Kooringal and Tangalooma is not always trafficable. Debris and shifting sand may make the beach impassable even at low tide.
Moreton Island conditions report

Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility.

Last updated 11th January 2019

Visit online: www.des.qld.gov.au

Camping & facilities

Campfire information – Campfires are permitted at totem campsites in the five camping zones and in Blue Lagoon, Comboyuro Point and Ben-Ewa camping areas. Fires are prohibited on the beach and camping areas at North Point and The Wrecks. Remember, keep campfires small, never leave fires unattended and always extinguish with water – fines apply. Be prepared and pack a fuel stove in case weather conditions deteriorate and a Total Fire Ban is activated. Smoking is prohibited within 10m from most visitor facilities in national parks. Portable toilet waste disposal facilities are available at Comboyuro Point and Ben-Ewa camping areas. A QldParks-Wifi hotspot is available at The Wrecks.

Beach driving conditions

Driving on dunes, vegetated areas and on unofficial tracks can cause significant damage to the dunal systems, and contribute significantly to the risk of further erosion. To avoid a fine drive only on officially constructed roads, tracks and beaches.

Tangalooma to Kooringal (western beach) is accessible at low tide only.

Tangalooma to Bulwer (western beach) access mid to low tide; use caution when crossing creeks.

Bulwer to North Point (via northern beach) is constantly changing and rarely trafficable due to the natural outflow of the Heath Island tidal creek system. Sand erosion is apparent between Comboyuro Point and Heath Island, use caution when traversing this area. Shallow creeks and draining gutters are boggy in this area and extreme caution is required before attempting any water crossing.

Cape Moreton to Mirapool Bypass (eastern beach) – deep holes can occur along the entire length of Eastern Beach making travel difficult between mid and high tides. Tides can cause unexpected and hidden banks, washouts and gutters. Care should be exercised during high tides around the timbered area north of the Kooringal-Mirapool Road and between Cape Moreton and Bulwer Blue Lagoon Road.

North Point – vehicle access to North Point from Five Hills Road along the beach can be problematic due to tidal influences. Visit three hours either side of low tide to avoid being stranded at North Point and Champagne Rocks. Drivers are advised not to traverse the area on an approaching high tide.

Cape Moreton–North Point Road is firm and trafficable.

Yellow Patch – beach lagoons and waterways are constantly changing. Caution: deep water at some creek and lagoon crossings with quicksand on lagoon edges and shoreline erosion.

Inland track conditions

Low rainfall with dry warm and windy weather over the last 3 months has dried out the sand making roads and tracks soft and boggy. Increased traffic over the holidays has caused conditions to deteriorate further. Check your tyre pressure. Too much tyre pressure can make driving difficult and damage roads and vehicles. Cowan Bypass – is firm and easy to traverse.

Bulwer-North Point Road (via Five Hills) is firm with some rough sections. Suitable for high clearance 4WD vehicles only. Bulwer-Blue Lagoon Road is soft in some sections but trafficable.

Blue Lagoon day-use access track and carpark is very soft but trafficable. Alternative access to Blue Lagoon is via the walking track from Blue Lagoon camping area. Mirapool Bypass Road is firm but rough in some spots. Tangalooma Bypass Road is very soft and rough with some very boggy sections, particularly at the start of the bypass of Middle Road. Middle Road is mostly firm but dry and rough with boggy sections around the Tangalooma Bypass intersection and ring road.

Tides

Tides on Moreton Island vary in a number of places:

- Ocean Beach is 1hr 30mins earlier than Brisbane Bar
- Day’s Gutter is 45mins earlier than Brisbane Bar.
- Tangalooma is 40mins earlier than Brisbane Bar.

Tides variations

Tides on Moreton Island vary as follows:

- Ocean Beach: 03:41 PM
- Day’s Gutter: 02:45 PM
- Tangalooma: 11:42 AM
- Tidal variation: 2.9m
- Maximum tide: 04:45 PM
- Minimum tide: 01:45 AM

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**Walking track conditions**

**Walking tracks** - Rous Battery, Telegraph, Five Hills and Tempest walking tracks are open and in good condition. Take your own water and stay hydrated in hot conditions. **Note:** there are no water points along these walks. **Walking tracks maybe closed at short notice during periods of very high fire danger.** Please check for Park Alerts before setting out and obey any track-closed signs.

**General alerts**

**Driving on Moreton Island**

- **Queensland road rules apply and are enforced on all island tracks and beaches.**
- Low clearance and all-wheel drive vehicles are not suitable for Moreton Island’s inland tracks.
- **For beach driving, travel at low tide or within two hours either side of low tide.**
- Ensure your vehicle is in 4WD and freewheeling hubs (if fitted) are in the locked position.
- **Vehicle recovery equipment is essential. Know how to use it correctly before you are stuck.**
- **Reducing your tyre pressure will assist when driving on soft sand.** Remember to keep within the tyre manufacturer’s specifications, as reduced tyre pressure will affect your vehicle’s performance.
- When driving with reduced tyre pressure, avoid sharp turns, sudden braking, high-speeds and driving over rough surfaces. Tyres can come off their rims and cause serious accidents.
- Always carry a tyre gauge, air pump, spare tyre, first-aid kit and adequate water, food and fuel.
- Ensure that you have a valid vehicle access permit.

**Tangalooma Wrecks**

Visitors should obey all warning signs and avoid getting too close, climbing on or swimming through the shipwreck structures.

**Weather Conditions**

Check Bureau of Meteorology web site or tune your car radio to Regional ABC stations for updated weather forecasts and alerts.

**Vehicle Recovery Service**

A private vehicle recovery service operates on Moreton Island. For assistance and pricing contact Moreton Island Recovery Service on 07 3408 3545 (0414 949876) or 07 3408 3930 (0475 563642).

**Marine Animal Strandings**

Contact RSPCA Qld on 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625) to report any injured or dead dugong, turtles, whales or dolphins.

**Additional Information**

Check Park Alerts for updates and information regarding any changes to park conditions.

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While this information was prepared with care, and based on the best available information at the time it 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 based on this information.