

Information for Kowanyama Campers 2020

Welcome to Kowanyama!

We, the Traditional Owners of this land welcome you. We want you to have a safe and wonderful experience during your visit. Please read the document, "Kowanyama Camping Terms and Conditions" besides the information below before you leave home.

Obey the terms and conditions!

Respect of country and others makes for an enjoyable experience by everyone. Make sure you have read and follow the Kowanyama Camping Terms and Conditions on the Kowcamp website before you leave home to ensure you are in compliance.

Display your permit!

The Corporation has on ground support to monitor land management and access to country. Please print your camping permit and display it inside of your vehicle (front dashboard area). Failure to display the permit for access would imply you are trespassing on Aboriginal lands and relevant action will be taken and authorities notified.

Notice! If you make changes to your booking regarding reservation dates, number of persons, or number and registration number of vehicles, you must have paid for those changes and have in your possession an updated permit reflecting changes to the original booking when you arrive.

Take away your rubbish!

Waste disposal is difficult in remote areas. Help us take care of our country. Please leave your campsite clean for the next campers by removing all your rubbish when you leave. Rubbish may be disposed of in Kowanyama at any public bin. **Failure to leave a clean site may attract a site cleaning fee or loss of future reservation privileges.**

Prepare for travelling to a remote area

The remoteness of Cape York means that telecommunications and data access may be limited, if available at all. Please prepare to **not** be contactable and ensure you have local emergency contacts (Police, Community Council, Fire and Rescue services, Local Health Clinic) and satellite phone access if you are concerned. Mobile phone service is limited to within the boundary of the Kowanyama township.

Please make sure you always have adequate supplies of water, food, fuel and a first aid kit while on land and on water. Groceries are available at the Kowanyama Store and the Anglican Coffee Shop.

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Local Culture and History

You have chosen to stay on the traditional lands of the **Kokoberra, Yir Yoront (or Kokomenjen) and Kunjen clans**. Each group has its own distinct language and culture.

The Kowanyama Peoples hold native title rights over about 2,731sq km of land and waters in south-western Cape York. On 22 October 2009, Justice Andrew Greenwood of the Federal Court of Australia made a consent determination recognising the Kowanyama People's native title rights including:

- exclusive native title rights over about 2,518sq km of Deed of Grant in Trust land
- non-exclusive native title rights over about 213sq km of sea, beach and tidal areas.

The name 'Kowanyama' means 'the place of many waters' and the area includes the Mitchell River System which has a tidal ecosystem where seasonal watering occurs over 40km. The significant wetlands area continues to be used, monitored and managed by the traditional owners.

Closed Access where fishing is not permitted.

Important Notice! The waters of the South Mitchell River between its junction with the Mitchell River and its entrance to the Gulf of Carpentaria and all waters adjoining it are closed to all fin fishing.

The maps on the following pages provide guidance for seeing where restrictions on access and travel are limited:

- Kowanyama Camping and Fishing Guide Map
- Cape York Peninsula Access Roads Map
- Alcohol Restrictions Map.

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Map

KOWANYAMA CAMPING & FISHING GUIDE

CAPE YORK PENINSULA

- PORMPURAAW
- KOWANYAMA
- CAIRNS
- NORMANTON
- CHILLAGOE

ROAD TO PORMPURAAW

ROAD TO NORMANTON/CAIRNS

MITCHELL ALICE RIVERS NATIONAL PARK

KOWANYAMA

1 2 3 4

THE WATERS OF THE SOUTH MITCHELL RIVER AND ALL WATERWAYS JOINING IT BETWEEN THESE TWO POINTS ARE CLOSED TO ALL FIN FISHING

FISH CHART

	BARRAMUNDI TAKEN IN POSSESSION LIMIT 5 PER PERSON PER DAY NO POSSESSION LIMIT FOR BARRAMUNDI
	BLUE SALMON NO POSSESSION LIMIT 20
	BLACK JEWFISH NO POSSESSION LIMIT 5 WITH ONE MORE TAKABLE OVER 100CM
	KING SALMON NO POSSESSION LIMIT 5
	MUD CRAB TAKEN IN POSSESSION LIMIT 10 ONLY ONE CRAB MAY BE TAKEN
	PIKEY BREEM TAKEN IN POSSESSION LIMIT NO LIMIT
	QUEEN FISH TAKEN IN POSSESSION LIMIT NO LIMIT
	SPOTTED GRUNTER TAKEN IN POSSESSION LIMIT NO LIMIT

THESE SIZE LIMITS APPLY TO THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA ONLY. IF FISHING ELSEWHERE CHECK LOCAL SIZE LIMITS.

CODE OF KOWANYAMA

- Leave your guns and dogs at home
- No alcohol permitted
- Leave all gates as you find them
- Light fires only at the designated spots in your campsites
- Place rubbish in bins provided
- Catch only what you can eat and follow the fisheries size, catch and possession limits (see above chart)
- Stay only in designated camp sites and areas
- Do not enter other areas without permission
- Stay on main tracks only
- Bury toilet wastes at least 15cm deep, away from water

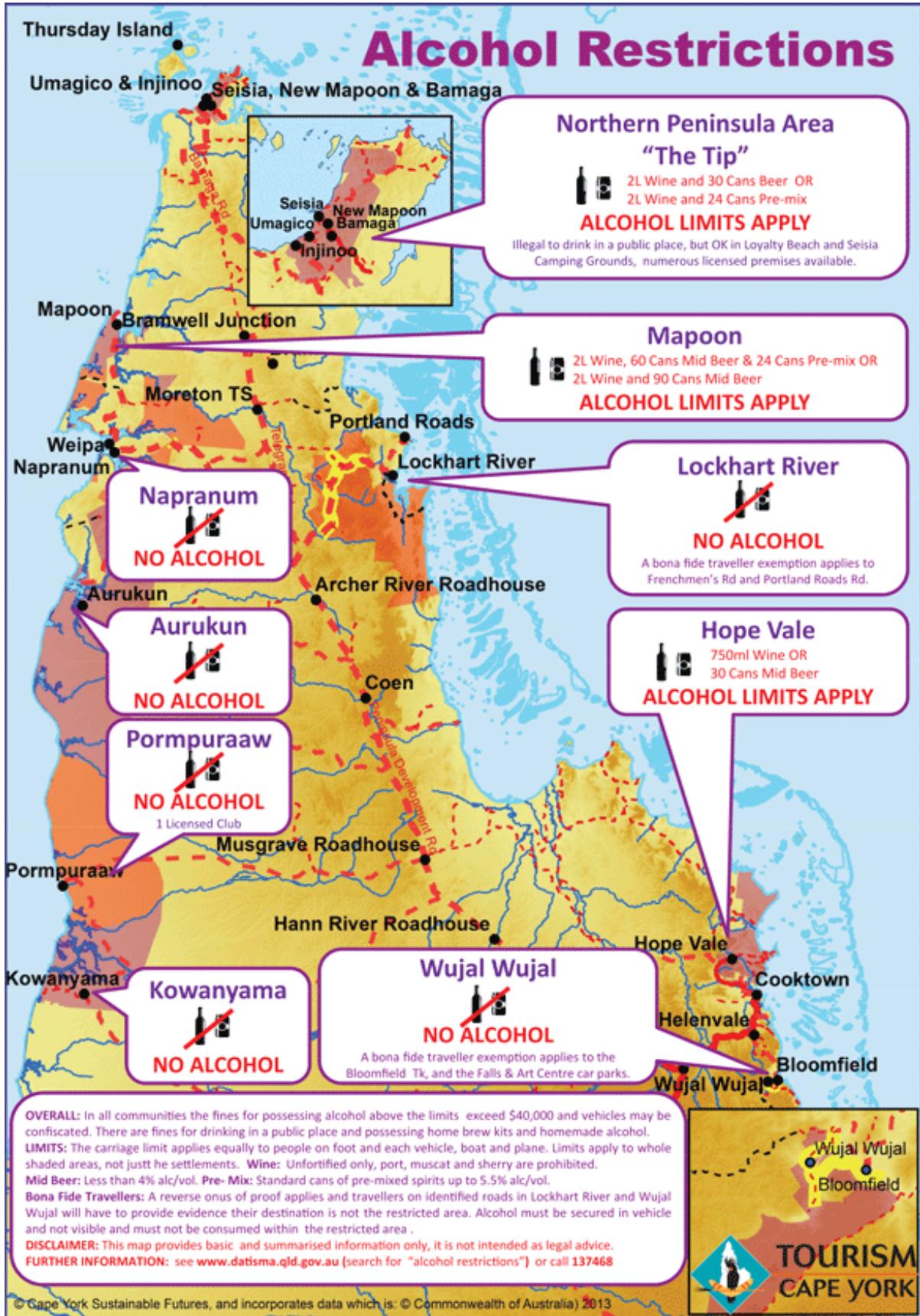
CROCODILE SENSE

- Definitely no swimming
- Fish well back from the water
- Do not mind boats or fish for any length of time in one spot
- Do not fish snags for too long from a boat or the shore
- Do not leave food scraps and fish offal and frames on the river's edge and near camps
- Do not clean fish at the water's edge
- Do be aware when launching and retrieving boats

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Stay Safe!



Crocodiles are potentially dangerous and common in Kowanyama. A hungry croc will happily have a meal at your expense. Never take unnecessary risks in crocodile habitat. You are responsible for your own safety.

Basic crocodile safety includes the following advice:

- **NO SWIMMING!**
- **Fish well back from the water**
- **Watch for crocs onshore**
- **Do not moor boats or fish for any length of time in one spot**
- **Do not fish snags for too long from a boat or from the shore**

Please follow the guidelines recommended by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection at their website link:

http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/staying_safe_around_wildlife.html

This link also provides information about other wildlife hazards in the region.

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Alerts

Before leaving for your journey check for alerts on the links below. The region is subject to road closures, traffic restrictions, flooding, fire and controlled burning and weather that may restrict access.

Bureau of Meteorology (Qld) website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/>

Bureau of Meteorology (Qld) phone contact details:

Queensland	
Full State Service	1900 955 360
QLD General Warnings	1900 969 922
QLD Tropical Cyclone Warnings	1300 659 212
QLD Land Weather and Flood Warnings	1300 659 219
Australian Tsunami Threat Information (1300 TSUNAMI)	1300 878 6264
Separate Regional Forecasts for Country Queensland	
QLD Northern Districts Service	1900 969 925

RACQ Road closure website: <http://roadconditions.lbs.racq.com.au/static/report/highload.html>

Road condition reporting phone contact details
(via Dept. Transport & Main Roads Qld): 13 19 40

Further road conditions including flooding, fires can be found on the Department of Transport and Main Roads Queensland website:

<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Travel-and-transport/Road-and-traffic-info/Traffic-reports-and-road-conditions.aspx>

Medical Centre and Emergency Services

Kowanyama Primary Health Care Centre
Carrington Street, Kowanyama
Phone: 07 4083 7600 – goes on call for emergencies and after hours.
Office hours: Mon to Fri - 8am to 5pm

Kowanyama Police Station
Chapman Road, Kowanyama
Phone: 07 4060 5120

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Alcohol Restrictions

Information taken from the Qld Government (DATSIP) website.

If you're planning on travelling through Queensland, you need to know about alcohol restrictions. Alcohol restrictions are in place in the discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland. They aim to help improve the health and well-being of all people living in these communities.

All Kowanyama campsites are within an alcohol restriction area. Possession of alcohol is not permitted. Significant fines apply. Alcohol may be purchased and consumed on site at the Kowanyama canteen.

Further information can be found on the Queensland government website:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/atsi/health-staying-active/community-alcohol-restrictions/>

This link provides information about community alcohol restrictions, travelling in alcohol restricted areas, fines and penalties, dry places and a list of communities where these restrictions are in place.

We trust that you will have an enjoyable time on our Traditional Lands. We encourage you to make contact with our office if you require further information about the region. The bookings team can be contacted via email at kowcamp@gmail.com and we will aim to respond to your query within 2 business days.