What’s happening at Coffs Coast Regional Park
Draft Plan of Management

Draft plan public exhibition 13 October 2017 to 12 February 2018

The Coffs Coast Regional Park Draft Plan of Management is on public exhibition and you are invited to make a submission.

The draft plan has been developed on behalf of the Coffs Coast Regional Park Trust Board (the Trust) by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Coffs Harbour City Council (the Council). The plan will set future direction for the park.

We seek your local input and knowledge to help further understand the park. This will help us to develop a plan together that is built on our shared understanding.

Public exhibition of the draft plan is an important opportunity for you to have your say in how the park is managed to protect natural and cultural values for future generations.

To find out more, join us at a community information session in the park during November or see the plan at your local library, council office or NPWS office.

Download the plan from our Have your say website at engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult and submit your comments online or via email, or write us a letter, before 12 February 2018.
What is the Coffs Coast Regional Park?

Coffs Coast Regional Park (CCRP) is within the traditional Country of the Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal people. The Coffs Coast has been a place of significance for Aboriginal people for many thousands of years and the park has important Aboriginal cultural and heritage values.

Regional parks are lands reserved to protect and conserve areas in natural or modified landscapes which are suitable for sustainable public recreation and enjoyment. They offer open spaces for cultural and recreational activities (including dog walking in some locations) that may not be permitted in national parks, state conservation areas or nature reserves.

The park was gazetted in October 2003 and comprises 562 hectares of coastal lands stretching over 27 kilometres from Coffs Harbour to Corindi. The park protects important natural and cultural values as well as providing numerous recreational opportunities for locals and visitors.

What is a plan of management?

National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Council and the Trust have prepared a draft plan of management for the CCRP. A plan of management is a legal document outlining how a park will be managed in the future.

The plan outlines objectives for management and stipulates the types of operations and uses that are consistent with those objectives. Extensive community consultation will occur before the plan is finalised.

Once a plan has been approved, all activities in a park must be consistent with the plan.

Who is responsible for management of the regional park?

The CCRP is managed by a Trust Board which has been formed under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The Trust Board was established in 2011 and facilitates cooperative joint management and enhances community participation in the management of the park. The board includes Coffs Harbour City councillors and representatives from NPWS, the local Aboriginal community and the general community.

The park is currently managed under a memorandum of understanding between the Council and NPWS.

Both the Council and NPWS are involved with the management of the whole park, with each taking on certain roles and responsibilities in line with their skills and experiences.

National Parks and Wildlife Service is primarily responsible for:
- native vegetation
- Aboriginal heritage
- threatened species and native wildlife
- pest species (vertebrates and weeds)
- fire management
- environmental assessment.

The Council is primarily responsible for:
- all park facilities and infrastructure (e.g. picnic areas and playgrounds)
- open space and sewerage infrastructure
- access to and through the park (e.g. walking tracks and roads)
- maintenance of asset protection zones
- secretarial services to the Trust.
How is the local community involved?

The park has over a thousand direct neighbours and a wider resident community with strong connections to different aspects of CCRP. Whether it's the beachside open spaces, coastal walks, local wildlife or Aboriginal culture, the park provides significant community benefits to local residents, the wider Coffs Coast and visitors.

A major focus for management has been supporting volunteer Landcare groups that play an extremely important role in bush regeneration and weed control in the park. The focus is on restoring high-priority sites which have identified threatened species and cultural values in need of protection. In all, 18 Landcare groups undertake bush regeneration efforts as prioritised in the park's Coastal Weeds Strategy. Approximately 1200 volunteer hours and 600 contract hours of bush regeneration enhances the 3000 hours undertaken annually by NPWS staff and other groups such as Repair to Country, Green Army and Work for the Dole teams.

Key achievement: The Solitary Islands Coastal Walk

The CCRP and the Solitary Islands Coastal Walk are major contributors to the regional visitor economy, offering a myriad of opportunities for nature based tourism.

The Solitary Islands Coastal Walk from Red Rock to Sawtell offers spectacular coastal views and passes through a diversity of coastal landscapes along the Coffs Coast, adjacent to the Solitary Islands Marine Park. The 67 km coastal walk was officially launched by the Mayor of Coffs Harbour in late 2012 and won a Regional Tourism Award for New Tourism Development in 2013.

Projects to complete the walk included works at Diggers Head, Charlesworth Bay, and Darkum, Mulloway and Woolgoolga headlands, and directional signage and interpretation supported by the NSW Environmental Trust through the Our Living Coast program.

What about Aboriginal heritage?

National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Council and the Trust Board are committed to building strong links and good working relationships with the local Aboriginal community and involving them in the management of their Country, including the management and interpretation of Aboriginal sites, places, cultural and natural values, and celebration of culture. A representative from each of the Garby and Garlambirla Guuyu-Girrwaa Elders groups sits on the appointed Trust Board which provides strategic level direction for the management of the park, and several on-ground cultural induction training programs have been run for volunteers, contractors and staff.

Additionally, providing opportunities for the engagement of Aboriginal enterprises, such as Girin and Durrundar Wajarr Bush Regeneration Teams, in the implementation of management operations on the park is an important principle of management.
**Will there be commercial activities in the park?**

Opportunities exist to facilitate additional commercial activity in the park via licensing and leasing to generate a suitable return on the use of park assets while maintaining environmental values. An example is the licensed use of outdoor areas as venues for temporary events and functions.

**Will visitor facilities be upgraded?**

Existing visitor facilities in day use areas may be upgraded, replaced or removed over time depending on management priorities and subject to funding. New facilities may be provided and will be high quality and have a consistent look and feel to create a ‘sense of place’ and enhance visitors’ experience of the park. Accessible paths and facilities will be provided as part of future upgrades wherever possible.

The draft plan of management does not include specific visitor facility upgrade proposals.

Master plans are developed through a separate process coordinated by the Council, in consultation with the community, and will be approved by the Trust Board. For some day use areas, Council’s master planning process will run concurrently with the exhibition of the park’s draft plan of management.

**Can I still walk my dog in the park?**

Management of the park (e.g. dog walking, beach driving and horse riding) is consistent with the relevant Council controls on adjacent beaches. Dogs will continue to be allowed on the park’s tracks and trails provided they are on a leash as required by the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

**What are the emerging pest management issues?**

The ongoing control of introduced plant and animal species will continue to be a priority for funding so that the park’s endangered vegetation communities are protected and enhanced. Glory Lily is an emerging weed species which has potential to threaten the flora and fauna of the park. Foxes are another threat to the values of the reserve which will require a cooperative cross-tenure approach for effective control.