

Deepwater National Park

On sandy soils to the west of the track grows a mosaic of paperbark forests, low shrubland dominated by wallum banksia and open heathlands. These taper into swamplands close to Deepwater Creek.

The creek water is stained brown by tannins and substances leached from surrounding heath plants. The creek is fringed by tall forests of swamp mahogany, paperbark and cabbage palms, and is broken in places by shallow sections of reed bed and paperbark forest. In these areas water only flows during the wet season.

Behind the beach, frontal dunes are vulnerable to erosion. Stunted, twisted shrubs and creepers help keep sand from being blown away. Wind sheared thickets on the higher parts of the dune show the strength and direction of the prevailing wind.

In the lee of the dunes are patches of vine forest with banksias, weeping cabbage palms, Burdekin plums and rainforest species festooned with vines. Further inland are beautiful open forests of wattle, banksia, Moreton Bay ash and a range of other trees and shrubs. Near the park's southern boundary is an area of rainforest.

Access

From the north (4WD access)

At Agnes Water continue along Springs Road for 4km, then follow unsealed sand track to the park's northern boundary. Wreck Rock campground is a further 8km.

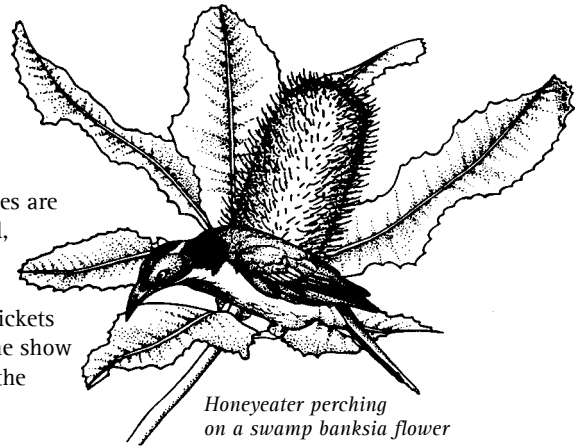
From the south – 2WD access to Wreck Rock campground only (4WD access recommended)

From Bundaberg, take the Rosedale-1770 Road approximately 58km to Berajondo. Turn right 500m before Berajondo into Hills Road. Proceed along this for 19.2km to a T-junction. Turn right into Coast Road and follow for 5.6km. Just before Wartburg, turn left into Fernfield road. Travel 7.5km along this then turn left into Deepwater Road. Follow the road 10.5km, cross the concrete ford, swing right and then turn immediately left into Wreck Rock Road. From here the park boundary is 2km, the Wreck Rock camping area turnoff 5.5km.

To continue north, the road through the park is sandy and unformed and unsuitable for conventional vehicles or caravans.

Facilities

A campground and day visitor picnic area are situated at Wreck Rock. Defined camp sites, picnic tables, one cold shower and self-composting toilets, rainwater and bore-water are provided.



Honeyeater perching on a swamp banksia flower

Please follow instructions for toilet use carefully. Primitive camping without facilities is permissible at Middle Rock. A day use area is provided at Flat Rock.

Things to do

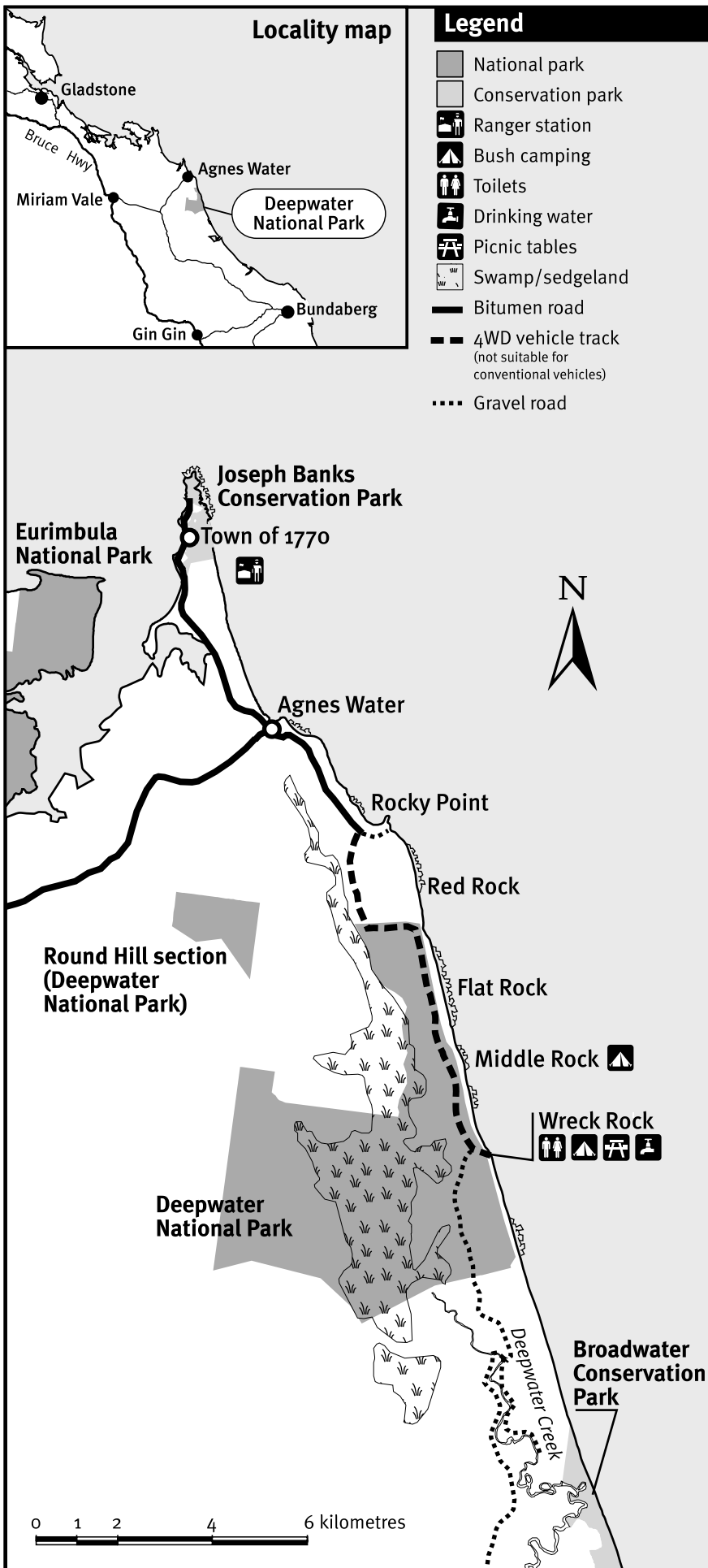
Many people come to Deepwater to enjoy the beach and fishing in a quiet unspoilt area.

WARNING: The beach is not patrolled and there may be rips and sharks.

Walking along the beach or road gives you a chance to look closely at Deepwater's plants and animals and to absorb its peaceful atmosphere. For experienced bushwalkers, a walk from the beach west to the creek system is very interesting but the dense heath vegetation can be difficult to cross.

Birdwatching can be enjoyed by anyone, but it is especially good if you can walk around to different types of heath and forest to see the range of habitats the park has to offer. Emus strolling across the plains, red-tailed black cockatoos screeching through the trees, honeyeaters feeding in golden banksia flowers, brahminy kites soaring above the beaches and waterbirds among the swamps are common sites at Deepwater. Binoculars and a field bird guide are helpful.

From January to April, turtle hatchlings emerge from the nests, usually at night. Their emergence is a fascinating sight, but please watch quietly without handling the hatchlings. Their species is struggling to survive and handling the hatchlings may cause them to die. Avoid standing on the nest as you may push sand onto turtles still below the surface and suffocate them.



Help look after Deepwater

The beaches are free of vehicles to allow people to walk and fish in safety, to protect erodable dunes and to prevent the death of many turtle eggs. Please do not drive your vehicle onto the beach or the frontal dune and be aware of the impact on the vegetation wherever you drive.

- Domestic animals, including dogs, are not allowed on all protected areas (national parks and conservation parks).
- Please remove all your rubbish.
- Do not bury anything as it may be dug up by animals.
- Stay to defined tracks.
- Chainsaws and generators may not be used on the park.
- Fires are no longer permitted in the national park. Please use a gas or fuel stove for cooking.

Look after yourself

- Be careful not to become bogged on soft tracks or run out of fuel.
- If you intend to bushwalk, obtain a topographic map and ask for advice before departing. Carry adequate drinking water.

Camping permits

Camping permits are required for all protected areas and can be obtained from the self-registration stand at the campgrounds or from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service office in the Town of 1770. Bookings are required for Wreck Rock campground in peak holiday periods and are accepted three months in advance. Book through Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service office in Bundaberg.

Camping permits must be completed prior to setting up camp and displayed at your site.

For general enquiries, bookings and camping permits contact:

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
46 Quay Street
PO Box 1735
Bundaberg QLD 4670
(07) 4131 1600
Fax (07) 4131 1620

For local information contact:

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
PO Box 177
Agnes Water QLD 4677
(07) 4974 9350
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