

Information for Tourist & Guests in Great Lakes Area

As you may be aware the Mid North Coast, more specifically north of here, has recently been devastated by fires.

Additionally, we are expecting low rainfall in our catchment area to continue all through summer, therefore we must all do our bit to help conserve water.

Below you will find some helpful information and tips to help you enjoy your stay in our wonderful area -the Great Lakes, Mid North Coast, NSW.

Sever Water Restrictions in Force – Level 4

What does this mean for you as a tourist to our area?

- There is a total ban on all outdoor water use.
- This means
 - no washing of cars,
 - no washing of boats and boat trailers,
 - no cleaning of fish at outdoor cleaning utilities,
 - no outdoor showers at beaches/lakes,
 - no hand-held hose use at holiday stays, and
 - no swimming pool top-ups at holiday houses.

What is permitted?

- Boat motor flushing is only permitted for 3 minutes, preferably using a container to recycle the flushing water.

What is recommended?

- Car & Boat/Trailer washing services
 - Joey's Hand Wash – Enhance Forster, Macintosh Street. Starting from \$15.
 - Great Lakes Car & Boat Wash – Corner Grey Gums Rd and Dee Cr, Tuncurry.

How can you help?

- Limit showers to 2-3 minutes.
- Run full loads of washing, or adjust water levels on washing machine

Road Closures

For road closures and hazards, visit the [Live Traffic NSW](#) website or download the App Live Traffic NSW.

General Bush Fire Emergency Information – Be Informed, Stay Safe!

If there is a fire in the area, you may hear about it on the radio, TV or receive a text message from the Rural Fire Service. It's important to receive the latest information.

What can you do?

1. Monitor the Rainbow Fire Charts – Fire Danger Ratings which are dispersed across the area.
2. Find out where the fire is: -
 - a. On-line via [RFS NSW Fires Near Me](#) website, or
 - b. Download the free App “Fires Near Me NSW” from the Apple Store if you have an i-Phone (having enabled Location Services and Notifications) or from GooglePlay if you have an android device.
 - c. Please ensure that all responsible adults & teenagers have this app on their phones. It is very easy to operate and monitor.
3. Know the Alert levels – Advice (blue), Watch and Act (yellow), Emergency Warning (red).
4. Determine the level of threat: -
 - a. Call RFS Information Line on [1800 NSW RFS \(1800 679 737\)](#), or
 - b. Visit [RFS NSW](#) website.
5. Stay informed. Listen to ABC mid North Coast 95.5 FM which will provide regular updates.
6. It is recommended that you do not enter the National Parks on very hot days.
7. If a fire is within 50kms, please place cane outdoor lounges and soft cushions etc., anything flammable which is outside, indoors.
8. Remember a fire can threaten suddenly and you may not receive an alert message. DO NOT RELY ON A SINGLE SOURCE FOR EMERGENCY INFORMATION.
9. Your safest option is always to leave early.
10. Be ready to ACT!

If you decide to leave or are asked to evacuate

1. Change into clothing that will provide some protection (long sleeves and trousers, covered footwear, as non-flammable as possible) and pack some water to take with you.
2. Close all the doors and windows.
3. Let the owner or managing agent of the property know that you are leaving.

Places for Evacuation or Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP)

Know the NSP for your area. If you are in an area not mentioned below, please call the RFS for Evacuation or NSP locations.

Forster area – Stocklands Shopping Centre

Tuncurry area – Tuncurry Bowling Club

Pacific Palms area

- Northern carpark at Boomerang Beach
- Southern carpark at Blueys Beach

Smiths Lake – head to the beach via Sandbar Road. Do not head towards the lakes edge as dense smoke may settle on the lake making it difficult to breathe.

If you are in a vehicle caught in a bushfire

1. Don't drive through thick smoke – you might collide with someone or they might collide with you.
2. Stop and park in a cleared area off the main track/road and keep the motor running.
3. Out on headlights and hazard lights.
4. Wind up windows, close air vents and put air conditions on "recirculate".
5. If you have mobile reception, call someone to let them know where you are.
6. Get down on the floor and cover yourself (including your fingers) with a rug or clothing – natural fibres are best.
7. Stay in the vehicle.
8. When the fire front has safely passed, and only when visibility has cleared, check under the vehicle for spot fires and drive to a safe place.

Fire Bans & Rules

Watch for latest fire bans on the RFS website and understand Fire Ban Rules [NSW RFS/Total Fire Ban Rules](#)

Parks & Forests

Before visiting any National Parks, Reserves or Forest, check these two sites for closures, alerts and fire bans.

[NSW National Parks/alerts](#) and [Forestry Corp](#)

A good source of information is also: -

<https://barringtoncoast.com.au/fire-emergency-info/>

This information is provided as general information only and should not be construed as legal advice on any subject matter. You should not act or refrain from acting based on any content included. You should contact the RFS or check apps, radio and other media or in case of emergency call 000.