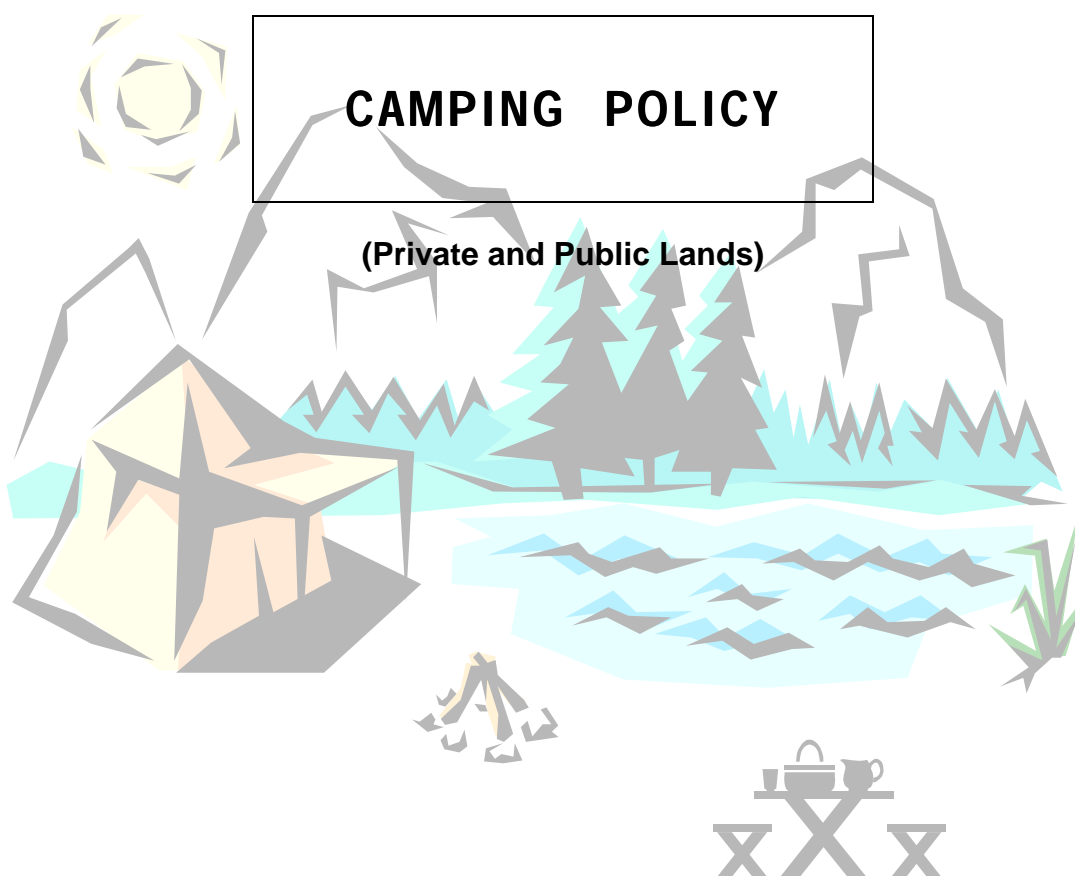




CAMPING POLICY

(Private and Public Lands)



Reviewed by Council on 31 October 2000

PRELIMINARY

The ever increasing popularity of camping in recent years has greatly increased the number of tents and caravans being placed on vacant and built upon private land during peak holiday times, in nearly all parts of the Great Lakes area. Most campers observe their obligations to other members of the public and to their neighbours but there are exceptions. Council welcomes visitors to the area and does not want to unduly restrict the owner's right to use their land as he or she sees fit, but in the interests of communal hygiene, and to preserve the amenity of the land-owners, householders, and the public generally, the introduction of more formal regulations can now no longer be avoided.

Camping is *not* permitted on private land whether vacant or built upon unless a permit is obtained from Council *beforehand*. The only exception is that a permit is not required to place *one* caravan only on land where there is a dwelling, and the caravan is for the use of the property owner's *immediate family* and the caravan is not occupied for more than 60 days in any one year.

A Camping Permit will not be issued unless the applicant:

1. Provides an adequate water supply to the property (to be connected to town water supply if available).
2. Provides sanitation and garbage disposal to the satisfaction of Council's Environmental Services Department.

A Camping Permit will *only* be issued to allow camping by the land owner and/or his immediate family and will be conditioned to ensure the removal of all structures including caravans from the site at the expiration of the licence. No more than one tent or caravan will be allowed on the site at any one time. Council *does not* permit the permanent siting of caravans, tents, buses etc on land which is not built upon.

Please note that the Policy extends to *any* form of camping, e.g. tents, caravans, panel vans, kombi vans, camper trailers or the like.

Camping on Council controlled public lands, (e.g. public reserves, beaches, dunes, foreshore reserves along the ocean, Port Stephens, lakes and rivers) is NOT permitted at any time and contravention of this regulation may lead to prosecution.

Camping for building purposes is not permitted on land within Forster and Tuncurry which is zoned for residential, commercial and industrial purposes, however this does not include rural residential subdivisions.

Council may issue Camping Permits upon receipt of the duly completed application form and the payment of the prescribed fee under the following circumstances:

1. VILLAGE ZONE PERMITS - VACANT LAND

(Excluding Forster & Tuncurry)

One tent or caravan for owner's use or his immediate family:

- (a) holiday purposes - up to 60 days in any one year;
- (b) building purposes - after Building Application approved - up to 6 months in any one year during construction of building; (except Forster/Tuncurry);
- (c) special purposes - such as fencing, clearing (subject to Tree Preservation Ordinance approval), watering of stock, planting of trees etcetera.

Permit and duration may be issued at discretion of Council.

The Great Lakes area contains large areas controlled by other authorities which have their own respective policies.

2. MYALL LAKES NATIONAL PARK

In Myall Lakes National Park camping is permitted anywhere except in a few small signposted areas, but vehicles may only be driven on roads and tracks which are not blocked (by rocks, logs, trenches, signs etc). Fires may only be lit in proper fireplaces in areas *previously* clear of all combustible materials for 1.5 metres around and more than 5 metres from a tree or stump. Portagas cookers are acceptable but no fires are allowed at all on days of **Total Fire Ban**. Pests of all descriptions are forbidden in the Park. At this stage the only legal access onto the Beach is 600 metres north of Mungo Brush. For further information contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service, District Office at Raymond Terrace on (02) 49 87 3108.

3. STATE FORESTS

The Forestry Commission of New South Wales welcomes visitors to the State Forest.

It is essential however that everybody drives carefully on forest roads at all times and keeps the area clean and tidy. Do not damage or disturb the plants or animals.

Avoid using the forests during very wet, windy or fire dangerous periods. A number of picnic areas have been provided but camping is only allowed in specially designated areas.

In Wallingat State Forest there are picnic facilities with fresh water at "The Shelter" at Whoota Lookout (a superb view of the coast) and at Wallingat River (toilets also available). Camping sites and a boat ramp are also located on the Wallingat River.

Picnic facilities and Nature Walks are also located between The Lakes Way and Pacific Highway at "The Grandis" tallest tree in New South Wales, at O'Sullivan's Gap Flora Reserve on the Pacific Highway and at Shorties Camp on Wang Wauk Forest Way. Please contact the Forestry Office at Bulahdelah (02) 49 974 206 for further details.

4. BOOTI BOOTI NATIONAL PARK

The recreation area is located 10km south of Forster on coastal strip between Cape Hawke and Charlotte Head. Bush walking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, boating and similar recreational activities can be enjoyed.

A designated camping area is situated south of Tiona Park (approximately half a kilometre) on the beach site of The Lakes Way. Fresh drinking water, amenities block and firewood is available. Fees are collected by the Ranger.

Day picnic areas with suitable facilities are provided elsewhere in the park but no camping is permitted in these areas.

Further information available from the Ranger (02) 65 540 446.

FIRE DANGER PERIOD

A Fire Danger period is in force each year between 1 October and 31 March.

- Fires may only be lit in properly constructed fireplaces which must be clear of all combustible materials for 1.5 metres around and must be more than 5 metres from any tree, log or stump.
- Garden refuse must be burnt only in a properly constructed incinerator or in a space cleared of combustible material to at least 5 metres from all points of fire. This burning can only be carried out between the hours of 7 pm and 7 am.

A Total Fire Ban when declared means exactly that and prohibits any fire in the open including incinerators and barbeques (whether wood, gas or electric).

Penalties - fine of up to \$1,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment may be imposed.

