

Camping Policy

CPC7

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

Chief Executive Officer

OBJECTIVE

This policy aims to:

- facilitate camping as an experience for residents and visitors to Cocos, for people who enjoy nature based experiences and are equipped to be self-sufficient, recognising that the Shire's camp sites have limited facilities; and
- balance making camping available to residents and visitors with the Shire's capacity to provide and maintain core service infrastructure (e.g. toilets, shelters, BBQs);
- recognise the Islands' capacity to sustain increased numbers, particularly in relation to emergency management and waste disposal.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to:

- residents of, and visitors to, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- all areas defined as the District of the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, as defined in the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law.

POLICY

1) Camp Site Locations:

- i) Camping is permitted at Scout Park and Direction Island only.
 - ii) Permits must be obtained from the Shire (details below) prior to camping.
 - iii) Camping is not permitted in any other area except by written approval by the Chief Executive Officer who may apply discretion for community events and for special occasions.
- a) Scout Park:
- i) Three designated camp sites will be marked at Scout Park.
 - ii) The stage is not a camping area.

- iii) Each site can accommodate up to four people, with CEO having discretion for larger family groups.
- b) Direction Island:
 - i) Five shelters are available as camp sites, the 'main shelter' and the last shelter closest to "The Rip" being reserved for day use only.
 - ii) Each camp site can accommodate up to six people, with CEO having discretion for larger family groups.
- 2) Duration:
 - a) Up to 14 days consecutive camping is allowed at both Scout Park and Direction Island.
 - b) A maximum of 21 days camping is allowable in any three-month period.
- 3) Facilities:
 - a) The Shire maintains basic facilities to be shared by campers and day visitors. These are consistent with the requirements for nature-based camping and consist of eco (waterless) toilets, wood-fired BBQs and picnic tables.
 - b) Campers must be prepared to supply their own potable water and firewood.
 - c) The following services and facilities are **NOT** provided at either camp site:
 - drinking water, power, shower, laundry or kitchen facilities.
 - d) Limited solar lighting is available at Scout Park and Direction Island.
- 4) Emergency Management:
 - a) Cyclone season is from 1 November to 31 March.
 - b) During this time, camping permits will require that people camping during this period are to have prepared a cyclone plan that will include, but is not limited to having –
 - i) a means for maintaining communication with the Shire;
 - ii) suitable transport and the ability to pay for alternative accommodation if the camp site is closed,
 - c) Camp sites are closed and are to be vacated during cyclones as soon as a Blue Alert is announced;
 - d) The Shire reserves the right to close a camp site in the event of any other emergency.
 - e) Anyone camping on Direction Island must have access to a registered boat or have signed agreement from the owner of a registered boat to provide support service in case of emergency.
 - f) All campers require a VHF Radio for the duration of their camp period.

- 5) Fires:
 - a) Solid wood fires are only permitted in fire pits provided.
 - b) Campers must leave the fire pits free of unburnt rubbish and rake around the fire pit when they decamp;

- 6) Rubbish:
 - a) Rubbish bins are not provided at Direction Island.
 - b) Campers must remove their own rubbish from Direction Island.

 - c) Rubbish bins are provided at Scout Park and emptied weekly. Therefore, campers are encouraged to minimise waste and the use of bins, particularly any items that may cause offensive odours given the high temperatures on Cocos.

- 7) Bookings:
 - a) Bookings can be made up to six months prior to the date and must be paid in full before the booking is confirmed.
 - b) Refunds, minus a 25% administration fee, will be paid up to one month prior.
 - c) No refunds will be made for bookings cancelled one month or less before the booking.
 - d) Bookings are to be made via contacting the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands main administration office on Home Island during business hours.
 - e) The Shire will communicate availability of camp sites by midday each Friday for weekend impromptu camping.
 - f) The Shire has discretion to apply additional conditions to a booking if necessary or appropriate.

- 8) Unattended camp sites:
 - a) Any camp site left unattended for more than 48 hours will be deemed abandoned.
 - b) Any equipment may be removed by the Shire and impound fees will be charged.

- 9) Fees:
 - a) Fees are as adopted by Council from time to time in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 s.6.16.
 - b) Each resident of Cocos (Keeling) Islands will be provided with a 14-night permit to allow them to camp at Scout Park or Direction Island each financial year. Thereafter, residents can purchase an annual camping permit.

10) Non-compliance:

Non-compliance with this policy results in the camper or campers being liable to the penalties and actions, under the Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law.

DEFINITIONS

Family: includes spouse, child/adopted child, parent, and parent-in-law, siblings, nieces and nephews

Nature-based site: an area for camping with limited services or infrastructure

Emergency: an event declared by a relevant Commonwealth authority or the Shire that puts any person or property at risk (can include but is not limited to cyclones, flooding and inundation, uncontrolled fires)

Resident: Person who has a permanent residence on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Adult: any person over the age of 18 years old

Impound fees: A fee set by the Council as part of the Annual Schedule of Fees and Charges

RELEVANT LEGISLATION/LOCAL LAW

Local Government Act 1995 s.3.37 and 3.39, authority and power to remove and impound goods

Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997

Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2020

Office Use Only				
Relevant Delegations				
Council Adoption	Date	11/11/ 2020	Resolution #	10.4.1
Reviewed/Modified	Date		Resolution #	
Reviewed/Modified	Date		Resolution #	