



Mackay Freshwater Fishing



Location Profiles
Tips & insights
What are you waiting for?

Freshwater fishing in the Mackay Region is second-to-none and the picturesque Pioneer Valley inland of Mackay offers a smorgasbord of options.

Located within a short drive of the Mackay City Centre, the Mackay Region has three world-class fishing impoundments which can be fished all year round. There is also the pristine Pioneer River and Cattle Creek which offer stunning scenery and sensational fishing.

Head west from Mackay to find Kinchant, Teemburra and Eungella Dams which are known as some of the best fishing spots in the world for large barramundi and sooty grunter.

With the recent completion of the Habitat Enhancement Project at Kinchant Dam, it has never been easier to catch the legendary metre-plus barramundi in the Mackay Region. Over 194 structures have been deployed in the dam, creating 36 angling hot spots which will have you 'Hooked on Mackay' in no time.



1.
Getting started



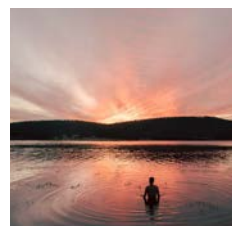
3.
Tips for targeting



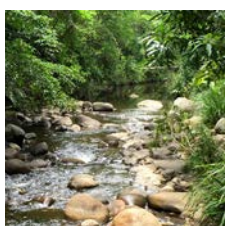
5.
Kinchant Dam



9.
Teemburra Dam



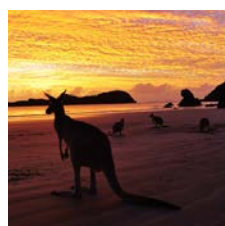
11.
Eungella Dam



13.
Pioneer River Upper Reaches and Cattle Creek



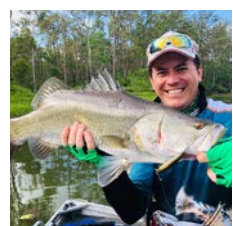
14.
Where to stay



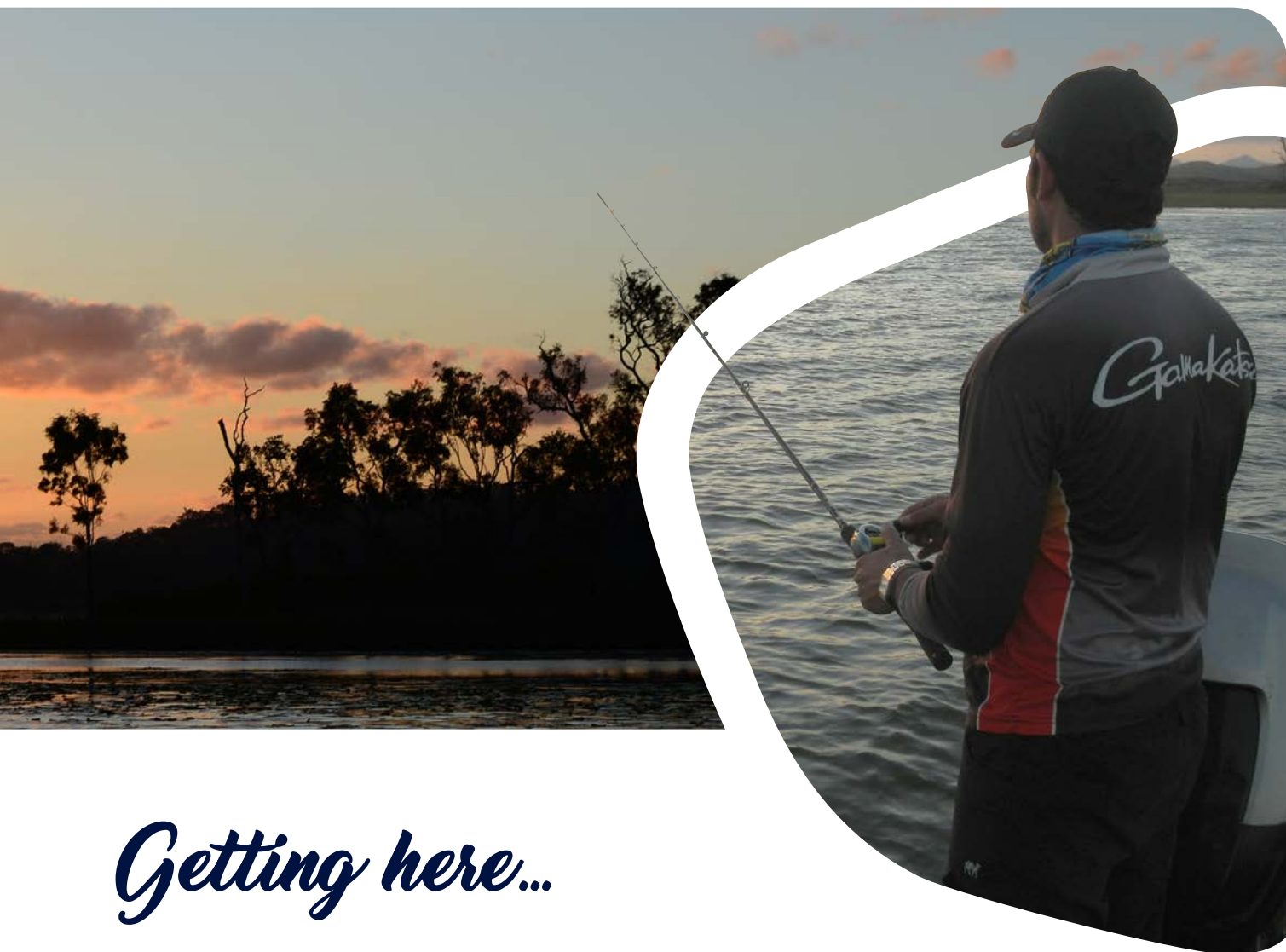
15.
Plenty to do



17.
Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association



17.
Who can hook you up all things fishing?



Getting here...

Fly direct from Brisbane, Rockhampton or Townsville, roadtrip via the Bruce Highway, catch a bus with Greyhound Australia or hop on a Queensland Rail train.



Distance to Mackay

Airlie Beach	149km
Rockhampton	336km
Townsville	389km
Cairns	735km
Brisbane	953km
Sydney	1,741km
Melbourne	2,320km

Fishing Events Calendar

Mackay has several fishing clubs and organisations that all run competitions throughout the year. For more information on exciting events, visit mackayregion.com/events

May	World Sooty Grunter Championships
May	Mackay Home Show and Caravan, Camping Expo
Jul	Mackay Spanish Mackerel Shootout
Sep	Kids Fishing Day
Oct	Calen Fishing Classic
Oct	Australian Fishing Championship begins in Mackay

Mackay Climate

*Temperature and rainfall are approximate averages only.
Source: www.bom.gov.au/climate from Mackay Aero Station.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average max °C	30	30	28	27	24	22	21	22	25	27	29	30
Average min °C	23	23	22	20	17	14	13	14	16	20	22	23
Rainfall mm	293	311	303	134	104	59	47	30	15	38	87	175



Getting started...

Do I need a fishing permit?

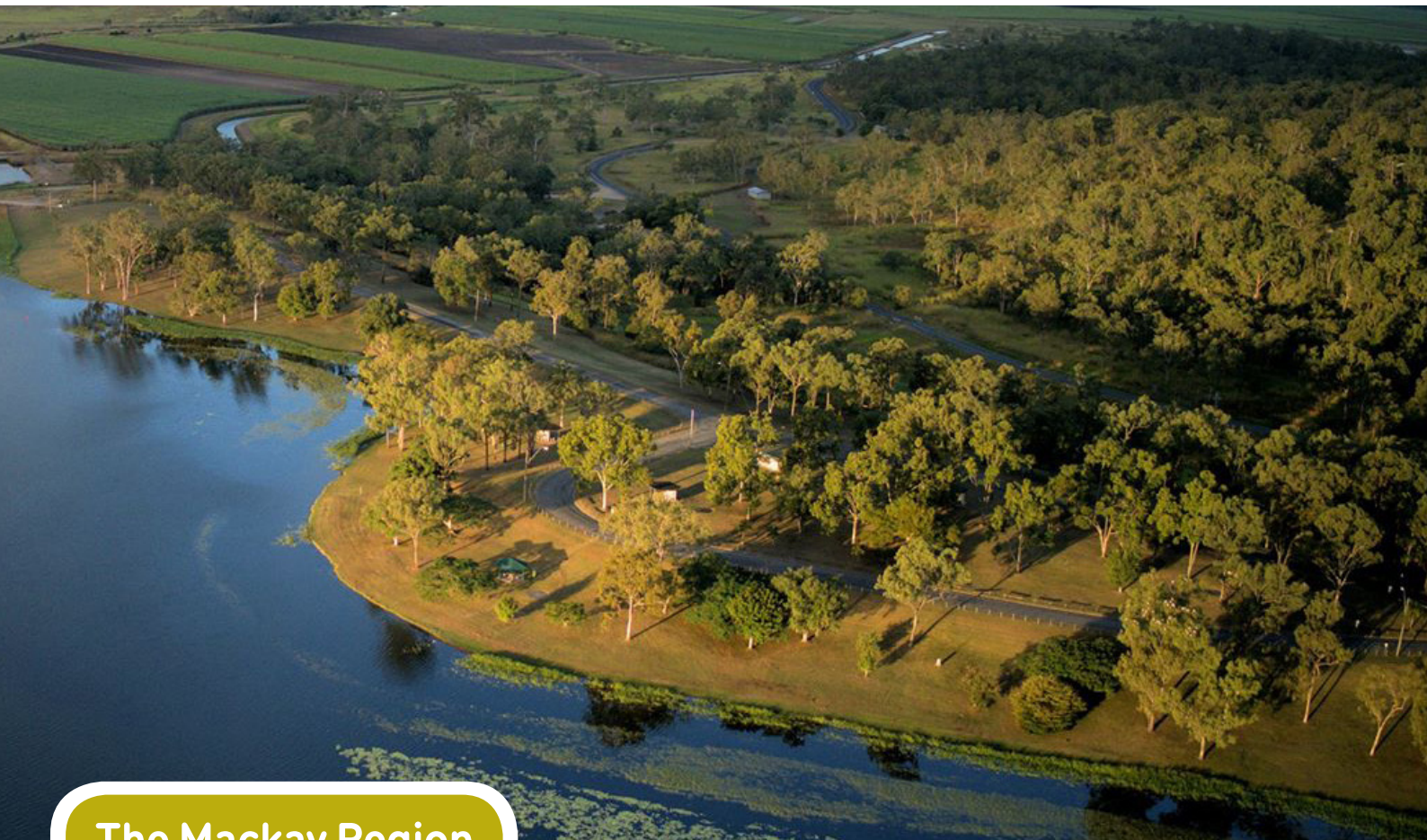
A Stocked Impoundment Permit (SIP) is required for some Queensland impoundments including Kinchant, Eungella and Teemburra dams.

Stocked Impoundment Permits (SIPs) cost \$10 a week or \$50 a year, for those over 18 years of age. SIPs can be purchased online at [qld.gov.au/recreation](https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation) or over the counter at Queensland Australia Post outlets.

Be sure to carry your permit, digitally or on paper, with you when fishing in a stocked impoundment.

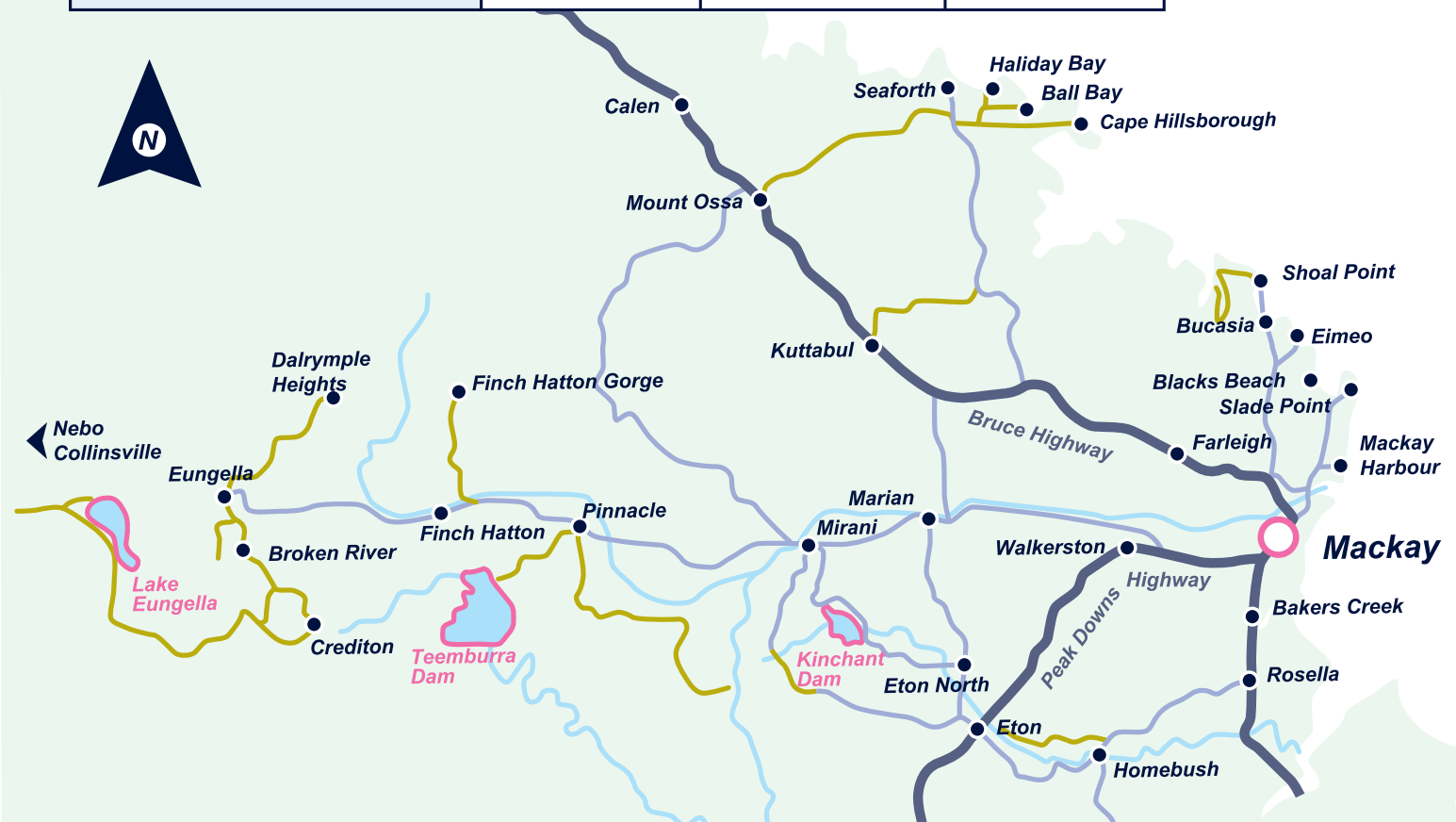
The money anglers pay for their permit goes towards maintaining and enhancing recreational fishing in stocked impoundments and management of the scheme.

There is no permit required for fishing in the Pioneer River and Cattle Creek.



The Mackay Region

Distance from Mackay City Centre	Kinchant Dam 40min - 44km	Teemburra Dam 1hr 5min - 67km	Eungella Dam 2hrs - 109km
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Tips for targeting...



Barramundi

Barra in the dams range from frisky juvenile fish to monsters pushing above 130cm. A 135cm, 41.5kg world record (on 15kg line) barra was caught in Kinchant Dam in 2011.

Lures that are worth trying include paddle-tail soft plastics between 10cm and 20cm (try to match the size of bait nearby) – these are best rigged weedless and slowly rolled over weedy drop-offs and near lily pads. Shallow diving minnows between 10cm and 14cm also work well and are best twitched slowly right near structure like fallen or exposed trees. Surface lures like poppers and surface walkers are also well worth trialling and do well during dawn and dusk.

Bring gear that can handle 20lb braid as a minimum and can cast accurately. Most anglers fish graphite baitcasters and spin gear rated to between 4kg and 10kg.

You can maximise your chances by focusing on key bite periods like dawn and dusk and moon rise and moon set. Keep an ear out for the tell-tale "boof" sound which indicates big barra slurping their prey nearby. The prominent points of old creek beds and clear weed edges are good starting points to try. In Teemburra there is no shortage of submerged timber, but look for timber on points combined with lily pad mats to increase your chances.



Sooty Grunter

A favourite freshwater fish, sooty grunter fight hard! Mackay is famous for its sooty grunter and every year in May Eungella Dam hosts the World Sooty Championships.

Sooty grunters grow to about 30cm – 50cm long and are stocked in all three dams by Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association (MAFSA). They are also prolific in the Poineer River and Cattle Creek.

The sooty grunter is a hard-hitting, dirty-fighting sportfish that will head straight for structure once hooked!

Favoured lures are hard bodies, vibes (hard and soft), spinnerbaits and poppers around 30-80mm long. Lures that put out plenty of vibration get lots of attention. Fish around heavy timber, weeds, rocks and in heavy flowing water, all year round. Use 4-6kg braided line and a 7-10kg leader on either baitcast or spin gear.

Sooties will also take baits, but as they are usually released, lure fishing is preferred rather than risking gut hooking fish.

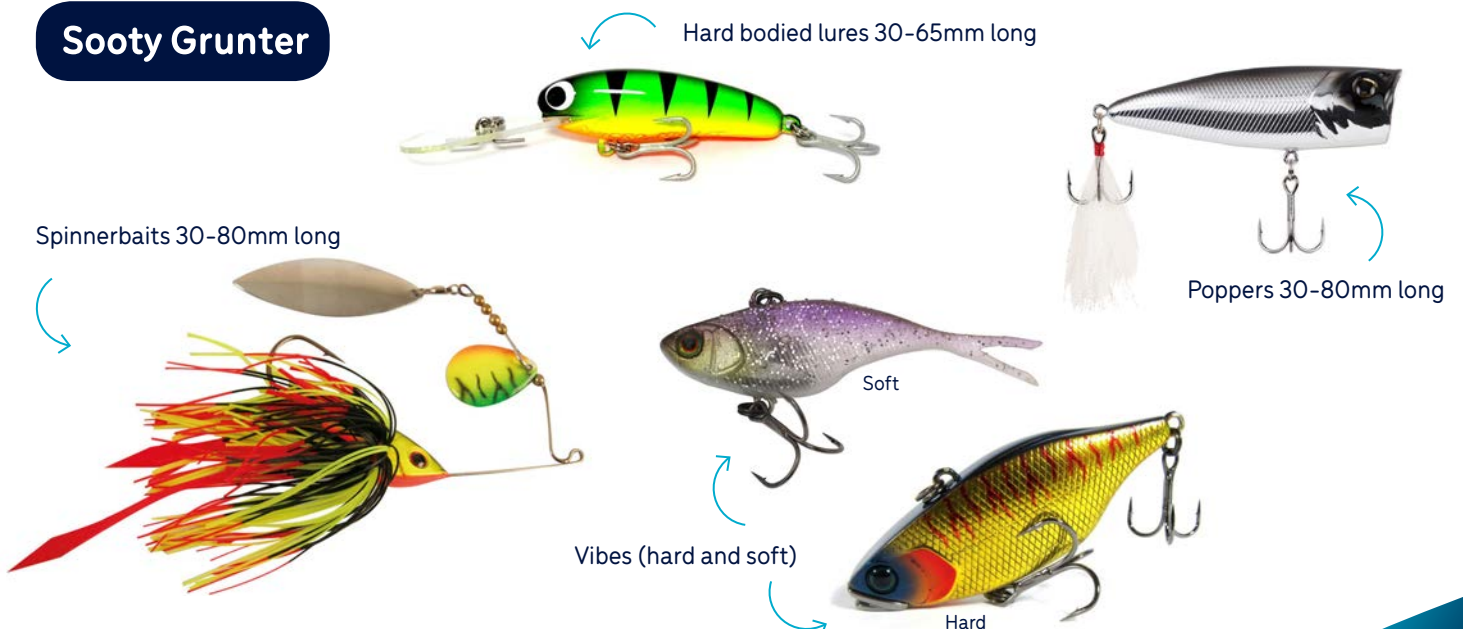
Must have lures

for catching barramundi and
sooty grunter in the Mackay Region

Barramundi



Sooty Grunter



An aerial photograph showing the Kinchant Dam, a long, straight concrete structure that divides a large body of water. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding land is green with trees and grass. The dam has a dirt road running along its length. In the foreground, there's a smaller pond and some trees.

Kinchant Dam...

Known as one of the best spots in the world to catch a trophy barramundi, Kinchant Dam is located only 40km from the Mackay City Centre in the picturesque Pioneer Valley.

Kinchant Dam is the perfect location for visitors and locals to tick a metre-plus barramundi off their bucket list. There is no better time than now with fishers starting to reap the rewards from the fish hotels installed as part of the Kinchant Dam Enhancement Project. (See page 7 and 8)

The dam has a surface area of 9.2 square kilometres and has been stocked since 1989. As of April 2019 over half a million fish have been stocked, including barramundi and sooty grunter. Kinchant has the reputation as one of the best places to land a fish over the metre mark due to its open nature and the numbers of big fish in residence. With limited standing timber and plentiful weed beds, fish tend to fight fairly cleanly.

Kinchant Dam is also popular for a range of recreational activities. The revitalising park overlooking the dam offers a barbecue area as well as toilet facilities. A concrete boat ramp is located on the southern side of the dam. Water sports such as boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, canoeing,

swimming and sailing are all permitted and prevalent on the dam. The dam is also suitable for faster water-based activities such as water skiing, wake boarding and jet-skiing.

Private camping at Kinchant Dam provides you direct access to the water with a variety of accommodations options available, including tent and caravan sites and cabins. There is a licensed bar and restaurant which is open seven days a week and provides the perfect place to join your mates after a day on the water for something to eat and drink.

Wildlife is active and varied around the shore, with bush turkeys and peacocks regularly visiting, as well as wallabies and waterfowl.



Photo credit: Steph Renton

Fishing tips

Catching fish at Kinchant Dam has never been easier, thanks to the recently completed Kinchant Dam Habitat Enhancement Project.

For a good chance to catch a barra, target one of the 36 strategically located fish hotel hotspots – make sure to take the GPS coordinates on pages 7 and 8 with you!

Weed is the primary natural structure type in the impoundment, so make sure you have plenty of weedless offerings in your arsenal. Big worm-style hooks rigged on paddle-tail plastics are ideal and can be weighted with special jigheads or a small ball sinker tied in the loop knot on the lure's nose. Surface lures worked over the submerged weed beds is also an option.

Getting there

Kinchant Dam is located 40 km west of Mackay and is an easy 40min drive from the Mackay City Centre.

From Mackay, travel west on the Peak Downs Highway for 25min before turning left on to Marian-Eton Road and then Kinchant Dam Road.

Kinchant Dam Habitat Enhancement Project

Improving
fishing for YOU!



The Kinchant Dam Habitat Enhancement Project has been implemented to improve your chances to catch that metre-plus trophy barramundi at Kinchant Dam.

While there are many large fish within the dam, in the past, fishing has been difficult for tourists and anglers who aren't familiar with the best spots to target.

As a solution, Mackay Regional Council (MRC) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) have joined forces to install over 194 Fish Attracting

Structures (FAS) that help to aggregate fish, making them easier to catch.

The structures have created fishing hotspots and more diversified fishing options across the dam. Most importantly, they have increased your chances of reeling in a trophy barra!



Structure type	Latitude	Longitude
Synthetic trees	-21.218939	148.887878
Georgia cubes and brush	-21.217009	148.886765
Synthetic trees	-21.216127	148.887558
Synthetic hedge, brush and synthetic trees	-21.212023	148.884644
Synthetic hedge, brush and synthetic trees	-21.211864	148.883636
Synthetic hedge, brush and synthetic trees	-21.211830	148.882355
Synthetic hedge, brush and synthetic trees	-21.211372	148.881378
Synthetic hedge, brush and synthetic trees	-21.211084	148.880325
Synthetic hedge, brush and synthetic trees	-21.210499	148.879440
Synthetic hedge, brush and synthetic trees	-21.209721	148.880173
Synthetic hedge, brush and synthetic trees	-21.209038	148.880875
Brush and synthetic trees	-21.210388	148.881516
Georgia cubes and synthetic trees	-21.209705	148.882828
Georgia cubes and synthetic trees	-21.210825	148.883224
Georgia cubes and synthetic trees	-21.211639	148.884872
Synthetic hedge and brush	-21.206415	148.873642
Synthetic trees	-21.205500	148.873550
Brush	-21.204626	148.873260
Synthetic trees	-21.203793	148.872543
Brush and synthetic trees	-21.204453	148.874695
Synthetic trees	-21.205881	148.874390
Georgia cubes and synthetic trees	-21.202446	148.876663
Synthetic hedge and brush	-21.200766	148.873062
Synthetic trees	-21.199858	148.875336
Brush	-21.196470	148.875366
Porcupine crib and synthetic trees	-21.195703	148.877660
Synthetic trees	-21.195177	148.879952
Georgia cubes and brush	-21.195971	148.882751
Synthetic trees	-21.197658	148.883269
Suspended and Georgia cubes	-21.197979	148.885925
Suspended and porcupine cribs	-21.198818	148.888718
Suspended and synthetic trees	-21.197214	148.889252
Porcupine cribs and Georgia cube	-21.20516	148.89827
Porcupine cribs and synthetic trees	-21.206516	148.898605
Porcupine cribs, Georgia cube and synthetic trees	-21.20833	148.89831
Georgia cube and synthetic trees	-21.20987	148.89807



Teemburra Dam...

Teemburra Dam is located approximately 65km west of Mackay, accessible via a 1hr drive through the Pioneer Valley.

Built in 1997, the dam has a surface area of over 10 square kilometres. The dam has been stocked by the Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association (MAFSA) since 1998 with over 878,000 barramundi and sooty grunter being released during this time.

This dam is a nature-lover's paradise, made up of a mass of inlets and coves. It is easy to become entranced with the natural landscapes, birds and platypus which inhabit the area. Once you hit the water, however, the only thing you'll be able to think about is the barramundi and sooty grunter.

Teemburra is a favourite dam for those who prefer a little seclusion and serenity. Skiing isn't permitted on the impoundment, meaning boat wakes and noise are not an issue.

There is a single lane concrete ramp, barbecue and toilet facilities located on site in a scenic picnic area.

There is no camping provided at the dam, however accommodation can be found just a short drive away (see Where to Stay).

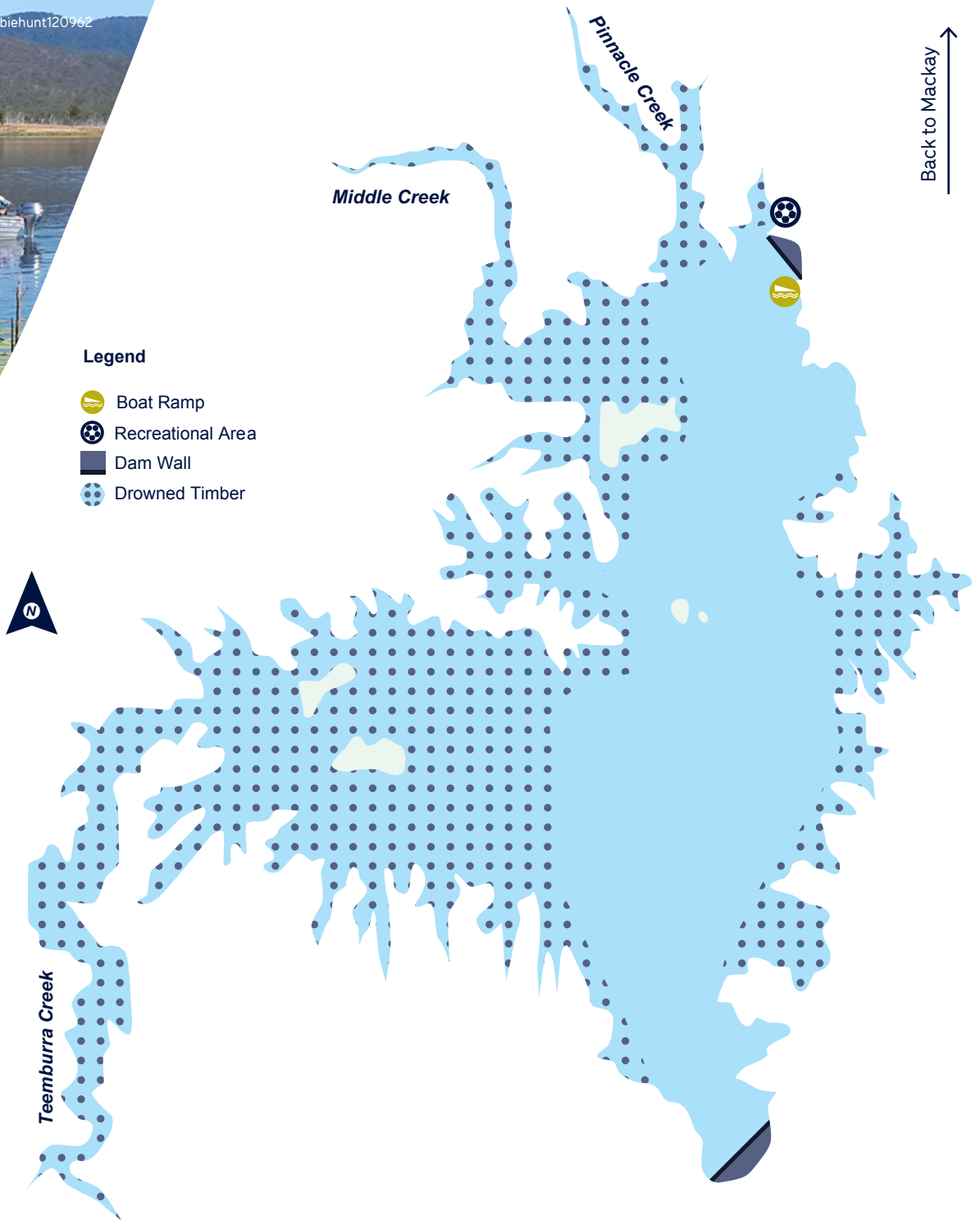
Fishing tips

This dam has great water quality and various bait fish are in huge numbers, as are fresh water shrimps and crayfish.

Lure casting is favoured around dense standing timber and your lures can be smashed by anything from a football-size sooty grunter or juvenile barra to a 120cm silver giant. Stopping fish in the dense structure requires a slightly heavier standard of gear with 30lb braid being a little more forgiving around the rough tree bark.

Because of the sheer volume of structure and health of the system, the baitfish in the dam are thick and varied. Bait Bait ranges from banded grunter the size of your thumb to bony bream as big as dinner plates.

Photo credit: @debbiehunt120962



Often smaller lures (from 10-12cm) work better in Teemburra, and because there is less weed to foul trebles, hardbodies are viable options. Try to match the profile of nearby bait and get your casts as close to structure as possible.

The points of old creek beds are well worth spending time casting at, as are any bays with dirty water pushed in by the wind. Trolling is a productive option. With divers trolled along the tree lines this is also a relaxing and often explosive way to fish.

Getting there

From Mackay, take the Peak Downs Highway for 1hr before turning left on to Pinnacle-Septimus Road and going over the level railway crossing. If you drive past the Pinnacle Pub, you have gone too far (make sure you stop in for a pie later though). Turn right on to Lucas Paddock Road (also known as Teemburra Dam Road) and follow this road until you reach the dam.



Eungella Dam...

The drive to Eungella Dam is exceptional, taking you via the Pioneer Valley and the rainforest of Eungella and Broken River.

Built in 1969, Eungella Dam is a long-established fishery with a surface area of 8.9 square kilometres. MAFSA stocks the dam with various barramundi, saratoga, sooty grunter and sleepy cod and to April 2019 a total of 920,000 fish have been released. Each year in May, the World Sooty Championships are held at Eungella Dam.

The dam is unrestricted to boats and they can easily access the dam via a single lane concrete boat ramp.

Fishing and water sports are popular on the dam and visitors can stay at a large sprawling camping area located on the dam's banks. No bookings are required for camping and fees are paid at the self-registration desk. The facilities at the dam include toilets and picnic tables.

There are plenty of areas to swim and relax and platypus and swans can be seen in the upstream section of this unique environment. People gather here to catch a sighting of many species of native birds and plants and, of course, to try their luck at catching a hard-hitting sooty grunter or barramundi.

Fishing tips

While Kinchant is the place to go for a metre-plus barra and Teemburra is all about variety, Eungella is the place to go if you want to tick a 50cm sooty grunter off your bucket list. Big sooty grunter are this impoundment's main drawcard and these dark-coloured, snag-dwelling demons hook anglers with their gutsy, all-or-nothing fighting style and brutal strikes.

In the hot summer months, you also have a chance to catch a Barra. Although well stocked, barramundi are hard to target in the cooler



winter months as the cooler water temperatures in the highlands make Barras less active. Most anglers prefer to target the more reliable sooty bites around the standing and fallen timber.

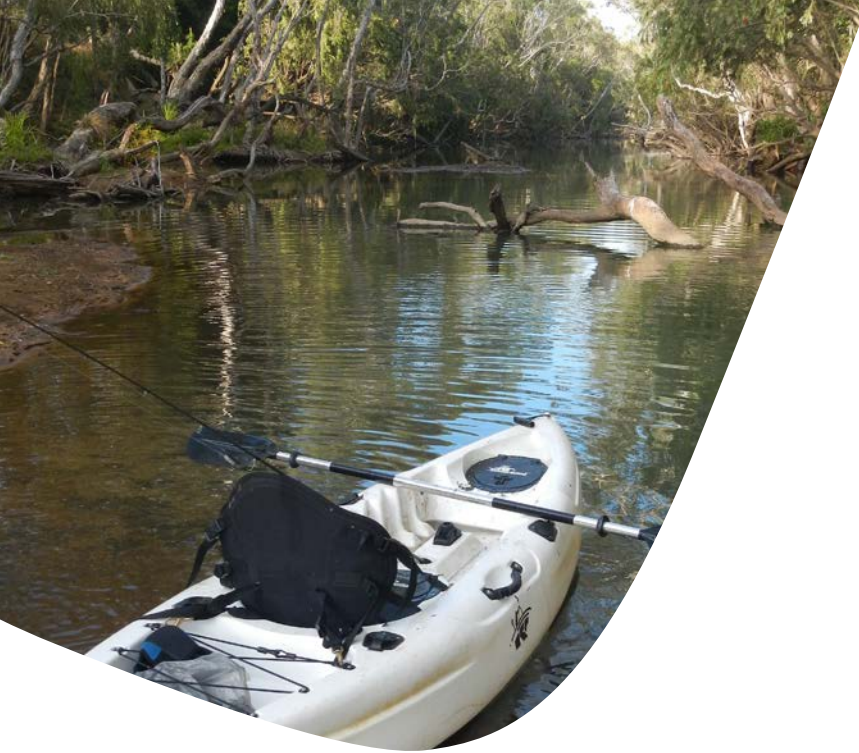
The bigger sooties are usually caught on small (50–80mm) vibes, lipless crankbaits and spinnerbaits cast around the large standing timber in the main body of the dam. Often the big sooties will smash the offerings as they sink beside the structures, so watch your line and be ready to strike.

For those who prefer visual strikes, small diving minnows (50–80mm), spinnerbaits and surface lures can be worked around the bankside timber up in the main creek arm of the dam and around the bays in the main basin. Sooties do fight dirty and will aim to brick you in the deepest, darkest corner of the snag, so don't underestimate them. Even 30cm fish can destroy you on light gear. For this reason, most anglers prefer 5–10kg braid, fished on 4–6kg gear. Look for rods with a light tip, able to cast small lures that still have plenty of stopping power in the backbone.

Getting there

From the Bruce Highway follow directions to Eungella and continue to Broken River. Continue through Broken River and follow Eungella Dam Road for approximately 23km until you reach the dam's recreational area which contains camping facilities, toilets and a boat ramp. Make sure to take care on the last stretch of Eungella Dam Road - the road here is unsealed and often visited by livestock.





Pioneer River Upper Reaches and Cattle Creek...

Fishing is just as much fun when you get off the beaten track and go for an adventure.

The upper reaches of the Pioneer River (and Cattle Creek) located in the Pioneer Valley is a great system to explore, by foot or kayak, with target fish species including sooty grunter and barramundi. There are a number of public access points to the water, however a good starting point is the area next to Melba House in Marian or the Cattle Creek Bridge Crossing after Gargett.

Look for fallen trees sitting in deeper pockets of water and shade as they make great ambush points for predators. Try surface lures earlier in the morning and late afternoon, focusing your casts on shadowy areas under bank overhangs and tree canopies. As the sun gets higher, switch to spinnerbaits and small, deep-diving minnows (50-80mm).

Make sure to pack your togs because you'll want to take a dip in the crystal-clear water and keep an eye out for platypus, which are prevalent in the area.



Photo credit: @luke6884

Where to stay...

Pitching a tent at one of Mackay's most scenic camping spots overlooking platypus waters, putting your feet up in a tropical rainforest bush camp where nature hums you to sleep or enjoying the comforts of friendly and professional country town customer service, the Mackay Region has accommodation options that suit every budget.

Whether you are looking for a scenic camping area, an inner-city hotel, a family tourist park, a holiday apartment or a luxury hotel on the waterfront, we have the right anglers retreat for you.

Pioneer Valley / Eungella

If you are wanting to stay close to the fishing action, there are several accommodation options located in the Pioneer Valley and Eungella.

Commercial Accommodation and Camping:

Broken River Mountain Resort

brokenrivermr.com.au / 07 4958 4000

Eungella Chalet

eungella chalet.com.au / 07 4958 4509

Eungella Dam Camping Area

customersupport@sunwater.com.au
sunwater.com.au/dams/eungella-dam

Eungella Mountain Edge Escape

bookings@mountainedgeescape.com.au
07 4958 4590

Finch Hatton Gorge Cabins

finchhattongorgecabins.com.au / 07 4958 3281

Finch Hatton Showgrounds

Peoples Street, Finch Hatton / 07 49585 666

Mirani Caravan Park & Swimming Pool

mackay.qld.gov.au/facilities/fitness_and_health/aquatic_facilities/mirani_swim_centre
07 4959 1239

Platypus Bush Camp

bushcamp.net / 07 4958 3204

Mackay

If you want to be closer to the action in the Mackay City Centre, there are plenty of accommodation options ranging from tourist parks, holiday apartments or a luxury hotel on the waterfront. Visit mackayregion.com/accommodation to book your accommodation today.

National Park Camping

If you are wanting to get back to nature in tropical and sub-tropical surrounds, there are a number of national park camping options in Eungella National Park and Crediton State Forest.

Eungella National Park:

- **Fern Flat Camping Area**

Location: 400m from Broken River picnic area, which is about 5km from Eungella township.

- **Broken River Bush Camp**

Location: Travel on Eungella Dam Road from Eungella to Broken River approximately 5km. Turn left 20m before crossing the Broken River bridge. Camp site is 200m from the kiosk and toilet facilities.

Crediton State Forest:

- **Denham Range Camping Area**

Location: 38.4km south of Eungella via Eungella Dam and Cockies Creek roads.

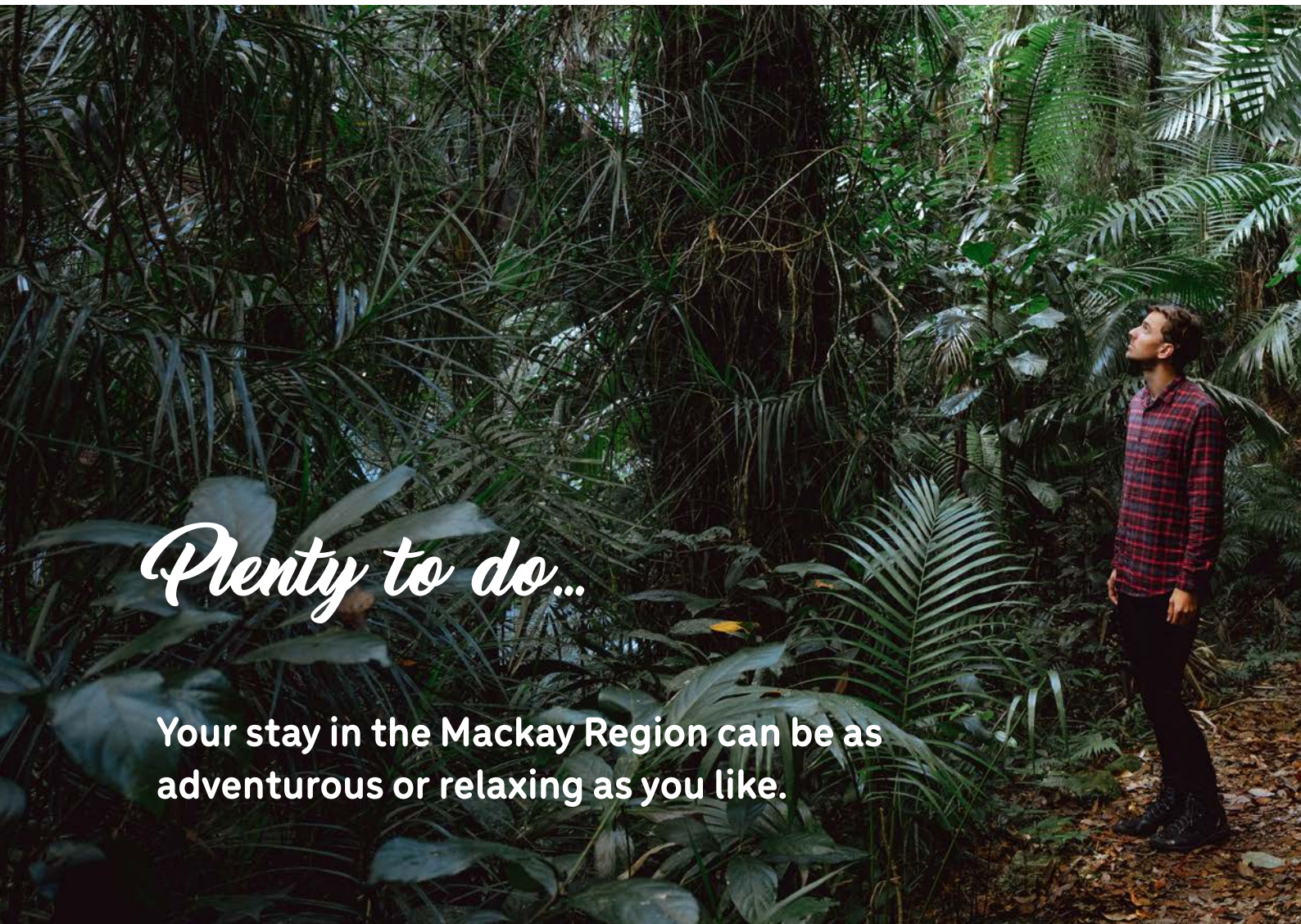
- **The Diggings Camping Area**

Location: 9.5km west of Broken River off the Eungella Dam Road.

- **Crediton Hall Camping Area**

Location: 14.7km south-east of Eungella on Crediton Loop Road.

Camping permits are required and fees apply. A camping tag with your booking number must be displayed at your camp site. To book, visit qpws.usedirect.com/QPWS/



Plenty to do...

Your stay in the Mackay Region can be as adventurous or relaxing as you like.

Extend your fishing encounter with bushwalks, watching sunsets on the beach, swimming in freshwater holes, wildlife experiences you won't forget or go on a treasure hunt of historical places - the options are endless!

Have you ever wanted to see a platypus in the wild? The Mackay Region offers the best, and most reliable places to see these unusual mammals within the crystal-clear rainforest waters of Eungella National Park and Finch Hatton Gorge in the Pioneer Valley.

Starting in Mackay, your platypus-seeking adventure begins by travelling 60km west on the Mackay-Eungella Road. Take in the scenic views of old sugarcane farms in the Pioneer Valley while travelling out to Eungella.

Enjoy a coffee and a touch of history at Vintage Kiss and Melba House on the banks of the Pioneer River just before reaching Marian.

Just under the Mirani bridge off Mackay-Eungella road, you will find **Platypus Beach** – a popular swimming hole for locals and tourists on the banks of the Pioneer

River. Enjoy swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding or a picnic with your feet playing in the sand.

Stop in at **Pinnacle Hotel** for a bite to eat or try the famous Pinnacle Pie.

At **Finch Hatton Gorge**, an amazing bushwalking journey awaits. Walk through a wonderful landscape of lush flora and volcanic boulders and be rewarded with a revitalising swim in the crystal-clear water of Finch Hatton Gorge.

You can't get any closer to the elusive platypus and other rare aquatic life than on a guided scuba diving experience in the fresh waters of Finch Hatton Gorge.

Rainforest Scuba is the only dive shop in the world that can offer the unique experience of diving in rainforest waters. Check tour times at rainforestscuba.com



If you are an adventure seeker, book yourself into the **Forest Flying** experience at Finch Hatton Gorge. The eco-friendly experience allows flyers to view the rainforest on a zipline from 25 metres above ground through the rainforest canopy. Find out more at forestflying.com

Travel a bit further up the Valley through the township of **Eungella to Broken River**, the home of the platypus. Special viewing platforms near the Broken River Information Centre offer a great place to spot the shy creatures.

Or get inquisitive at **Greenmount Homestead**, west of Mackay. Built in 1915, you can walk through one of Mackay's most historic attractions – an original Queenslander homestead which houses an intact collection of more than 20,000 historical items.

For more travel inspiration, visit mackayregion.com or pop into Melba House Visitor Information Center located at Edward Lloyd Park, Anzac Avenue, Marian (the gateway to the Pioneer Valley).



Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association (MAFSA)

The Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association (MAFSA) is a volunteer organisation formed in 1994 to stock impoundments in the Mackay Region.

MAFSA has released over 2.3 million fish throughout the region. Species stocked include barramundi, sooty grunter and sleepy cod. MAFSA operates a freshwater hatchery off Bucasia Road, Rural View where sooty grunter are spawned and grown out for release in our dams.

To get in touch with MAFSA or to learn more about their operations, check out their Facebook page.

Who can hook you up for all things fishing?

Fishing Operators:

Inshore Fishing Mackay

☎ 0457 254 740

f InshoreFishingMackay

Elizabeth Ell

☎ 4955 2563

🌐 elizabethell.com.au

Mackay Fly and Sportfishing

☎ 0407 674 350

🌐 mackaysportfishing.com.au

Action Charters

☎ 0417 452 346

🌐 actioncharters.com.au

Fishin' Magician

☎ 0478 720 781

f Fishin'Magician

Tackle Stores:

Tackle World Mackay

☎ 4957 2145

🌐 tackleworldmackay.com.au

Nashy's Compleat Angler

☎ 4957 2272

🌐 compleatangler.com.au

BCF

☎ 4942 3499

🌐 bcf.com.au

Freddys Fishin & Outdoors

☎ 4942 0360

🌐 freddys.com.au

The Square Peg

☎ 4941 8256

🌐 thesquarepeg.com.au

Inspiration:

Hooked On Mackay

f HookedOnMackay

🌐 hookedonmackay.com

Fish & Boat Magazine

🌐 fishandboat.com.au

Fishing Monthly Magazine

🌐 fishingmonthly.com.au

Casting Cowboys Fishing

f CastingCowboysFishing



The World Sooty Championships

The World Sooty Championships is an annual fishing competition run by the Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association (MAFSA) which targets the native sooty grunter.

Held annually over the May Day weekend at the picturesque Eungella Dam, the Championships are a great weekend of camping and fishing. With over \$5000 in prizes and giveaways, competitors travel from all over Queensland and Australia to compete. For further information, updates and rules, visit MAFSA's Facebook page.



Testimonials



Teemburra for me has always been one of those places where you can catch larger numbers of feisty smaller barra – 50 to 80cm fish that jump a lot and fight hard. For that reason, I often use smaller lures. I'll never forget the day a 10cm Rapala X-Rap I was casting got inhaled beside a single tree trunk. I knew this fish was bigger but didn't realise how big until it bricked me in the spindly canopy of a submerged tree. Luckily, I could see leader and was able to dangle out of the boat and get a hand on the fish's jaw. It went 113cm and had mangled the lure to the point of being unrecognisable – but the hooks had held!

– Lee Brake, Teemburra Dam



Grant (Zietsman) and I had just pulled up at the spot and my third cast got smashed. We ended up having to pull up the anchor to chase it, because I just couldn't slow it down. The run was extreme and then it turned and headed for the weeds. It ploughed into the weed bed and we had to get on top of it and do a few circles around it with the braided line to cut through. It took five to seven minutes of mayhem before it floated to the surface. When it did all I could think was – this thing is massive. It ended up being a new line-class world record weighing in at 41.5kg, 135cm and had a girth of 106cm.

– Willem Reichard, Kinchant Dam



I've fished Eungella since I was 10 years old and the fishing now is just as good as 20 years ago. This is not just because of the hard work of the local stocking group, it's also because it has a great base of pristine flowing water that the sooties can breed in. I've personally had over 100-fish sessions on that dam and have caught fish on all techniques from bait, fly, cast and spin. It really is an angler's paradise with great camping locations and facilities. You don't even have to take the boat off the water every day, just pull up to camp and a warm fire is waiting for you. It is honestly my favourite place to fish and has been for as long as I can remember.

– Daniel Grech, AFC angler and multiple World Sooty Champion title holder, Eungella Dam





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