



Media release

Mayor: Jim Simmons
General Manager: Ashley Lindsay

LOCKED BAG 23 GRAFTON NSW 2460
Telephone: (02) 6643 0200
Fax: (02) 6642 7647

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2017

Restricted parking to combat illegal camping

BETWEEN December and May each year the Clarence Valley experiences a spike in illegal camping as visitors come to enjoy the warm weather and idyllic lifestyle that the region has to offer.

From next week the Clarence Valley Council will be installing restricted parking signs and patrolling key areas over the holiday period in a trial designed to lessen the impact of illegal camping, particularly around the popular tourist towns of Yamba and Angourie. This includes camping in any moveable or temporary form of accommodation such as tents, caravans, motorhomes, vehicles, sleeping bags or swags.

Council general manager, Ashley Lindsay, said the community had come to council for support and to help alleviate some of the impacts of illegal camping.

“These visitors are highly valuable to the local economy but they needed to comply with local camping regulations,” he said.

“The council encourages these visitors to come to the region and we want them to enjoy their stay, but it’s important everyone looks after the natural environment and complies with local laws.

“Breaches to these laws, particularly those relating to camping, waste and fire, can create undesirable impacts to the wider community including noise, litter, safety, environmental and health risks.”

Parking restrictions will be enforced between 12.30am-5.30am and signs are to be erected at Angourie Point, Green Point, Blue Pools, Spooky’s beach, Turners beach, Ocean St, Convent beach, and Pacific parade, Pippi Beach car parks.

Mr Lindsay said council would also be ensuring rangers patrol these areas and advise people illegally camping, that they need to find an alternative location. They will also be encouraged to book into established camping grounds in the area.

“Locals will also need to be aware of these new parking restrictions as there is no way of distinguishing between a local vehicle and visitor’s,” he said.

“Whether the car is occupied or not, if it is found parked in these areas between 12.30am-5am they potentially face a fine.”

Council's tourism department has designed "The Clarence Valley guide to Happy Camping", a detailed guide and map showing 52 free and fee-based campsite locations across the Clarence Valley. This is available for download online and printed brochures will be distributed by the rangers to illegal campers.

The guides will be available at Maclean and Grafton customer service centres, Clarence Valley holiday parks and visitor information portals across the region. It will be useful for all holidaymakers, as council officers can now issue on-the-spot fines to the vehicle for anyone breaking these laws.

Mr Lindsay said visitors had access to all the information they needed to avoid on-the spot fines and to keep the Clarence Valley beautiful for generations to come.

By following key guidelines, visitors can be sure they're doing the right thing:

1. only camp in designated areas;
2. only dump grey water and toilet waste at designated dump stations.
3. don't litter – use the bins provided
4. recycle where possible and use the correct bin.
5. don't wash yourself or your clothes in any rivers or lakes.
6. use designated toilet and shower facilities only.
7. if you're in doubt about whether you can camp in a specific spot (such as there are no signs), then call My Clarence Valley 02 6643 0800
8. check out the My Clarence Valley tourism site for information www.myclarencevalley.com

Release ends.

For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.

