

Explore Queensland

# Central Queensland fishing trail



The Central Queensland fishing trail is a joint initiative of the Queensland Government and the Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association of Queensland Inc.

## Central Queensland stocking groups

- Callide Valley Native Fish Stocking Association Inc.
- Clermont Fish Stocking Group Inc.
- Emerald Fish Stocking Group Inc.
- Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association Inc.



### Interpreter service

If you need an interpreter to help you understand this document call **13 25 23** or visit [daf.qld.gov.au](http://daf.qld.gov.au) (search 'interpreter').

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# Central Queensland fishing trail

Queensland's stocked dams and weirs offer fantastic recreational freshwater fishing experiences – and our regional fishing trails are a great way to *explore Queensland*.

With more than 60 dams and weirs across 5 regions – **North Queensland, Central Queensland, Wide Bay-Burnett, South East Queensland and the Murray–Darling** – there are plenty of places to wet a line and catch a great feed!

The **Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (SIPS)** provides a sustainable fishing option, with over 2 million fish stocked in Queensland dams and weirs every year. The money you pay for your SIPS permit is used by community stocking groups to maintain fish stocks so you can enjoy your fishing – now and in the future.

## Before you head off ...

- **Download the Qld Fishing 2.0 app** so you have Queensland's recreational fishing rules at your fingertips.
- **Buy your SIPS permit** via the **Qld Fishing 2.0 app** or at [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au), or call **1300 575 359** (or at Queensland and selected New South Wales Australia Post outlets).
- **Check with the relevant local authorities** (e.g. local council, Seqwater, Sunwater) that the dam or weir is open and safe to use.
- Make sure your vehicle is suitable to drive on **unsealed roads** (e.g. gravel and dirt) if required, check if you need **4WD capability** and make sure your **registrations** are up to date.
- Check the **weather conditions** and make sure you have all necessary safety gear.
- **Download** the Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association of Queensland's **Fish Monitoring App** to keep track of your catches

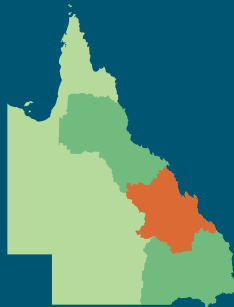
**More information:** visit [fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://fisheries.qld.gov.au) or call **13 25 23**

\* All people over 18 years must have a permit to fish in stocked dams and weirs that are listed in this guide at time of printing.

# Gone fishing...

## in Central Queensland

Central Queensland offers beautiful and diverse landscapes, from the Central Highlands to the Southern Great Barrier Reef and is the self-proclaimed barra capital (a title hotly disputed by North Queensland and the Wide Bay-Burnett).

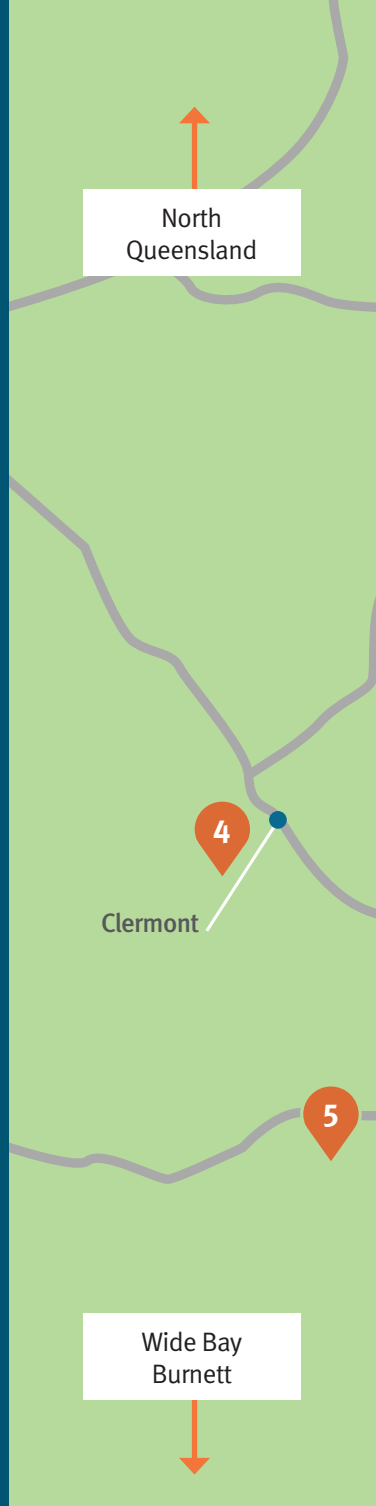


You can also try your luck fly fishing for southern saratoga or chase sooty grunter.

Inland from the coastline, Emerald hosts the state's second biggest dam – Lake Maraboon.

From the coast to the country, this part of Queensland has something for everyone.

1. Teemburra Dam
2. Kinchant Dam
3. Eungella Dam
4. Theresa Creek Dam
5. Fairbarn Dam (Lake Maraboon)
6. Callide Dam





3

2

1

Eungella

Mackay

Sarina

Nebo

Moranbah

Marlborough

Yeppoon

Rockhampton

Emerald

Blackwater

6

Biloela

# Stocked fish

## Barramundi

Reaching over 1 m long, barramundi is a very popular sport fishing species.

Rocky foreshores and headlands are a good spot to target them as they herd around these areas looking for bait.

Large lures (around 15–20 cm) are recommended with a 20 pound line so you can land a big one!



## Golden perch

Spring is the best season for catching golden perch as they start becoming more active, and evening is the best time to get a bite.

Although not as big as some other fish, they are a great sport fish and fun for any fisher to catch. Best to fish with a small lure as it mimics their diet of small insects, yabbies, fish and prawns (small soft plastics around 50–80 mm).



## Silver perch

As with golden perch, small lures and bait are the best for catching silver perch due to their small mouths.

Shrimps are the best bait as they are their primary food source.



## Southern saratoga

**Southern saratoga are strong and aggressive. August to October is a good time for Saratoga fishing – try somewhere a little more secluded early in the morning.**

As they are surface feeders, try top water methods. Lures such as stickbaits or poppers work well, as does bait that mimics frogs or lizards. During the heat of the day they will venture deeper into the water and hide among the vegetation of overhanging trees. They have a lot of teeth and a very bony mouth, so may be difficult to catch just with a simple hook.



## Sooty grunter

**While they may not be as big as barramundi, they make up for it with attitude.**

Sooty grunter are strong and very aggressive at times, making it an exciting catch. They can often be found hiding around submerged structures, waiting to ambush their prey. Use cherabin, shrimps and worms as bait, or catch them on lures.



## NOTE: Redclaw crayfish

Outside of their natural range in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York Peninsula south to the Normanby River, Redclaw Crayfish are considered a non-Indigenous species and must not be used as bait or returned to the water.

# Pest fish

If you catch a pest fish, do not release it back into the water – you must dispose of it appropriately.

If caught, tilapia must be humanely destroyed immediately and disposed of as soon as practicable by burying a suitable distance from the waterway where it was caught or placing it in a rubbish bin.

If you spot a pest fish outside their known distribution, please take a photo and call **Biosecurity** on **13 25 23**.

The most common types of pest fish are **carp**, **tilapia** and **gambusia** (mosquito fish).

## Common carp



## Gambusia (mosquito fish)



## Mozambique tilapia



## Spotted tilapia





# Stocked dams and weirs

## Facilities guide



Accommodation  
within 5 km



Picnic tables



Boat hire



Camping  
within 5 km



Playground/  
kids activities



Boat ramp



Campfires



Toilets



Water sports



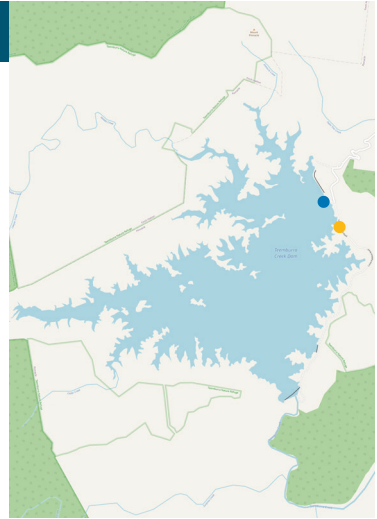
BBQs



# Stocked dams and weirs

## Teemburra Dam

- Located 50 km west of Mackay in the town of Pinnacle on the Pioneer River
- Stocked with barramundi and sooty grunter
- Boating permitted – no jet skis or water skiing

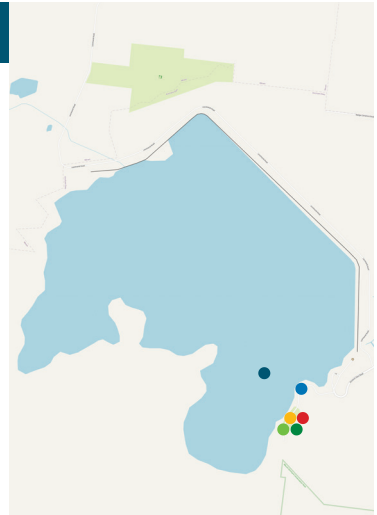


### Facilities



## Kinchant Dam

- Located 41 km west of Mackay past North Eton on the Pioneer River
- Stocked with barramundi and sooty grunter
- Installation of fish attracting structures improves angler catch rate
- Popular for fishing and water sports



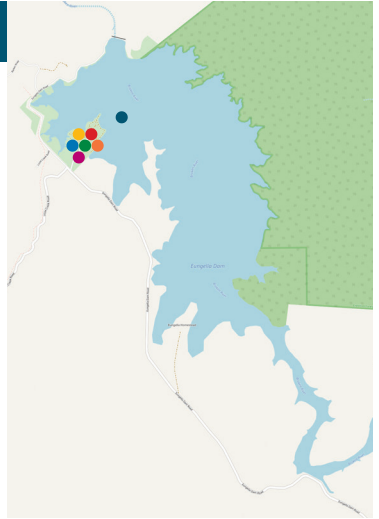
### Facilities



# Stocked dams and weirs

## Eungella Dam

- Located 80 km west of Mackay in the scenic mountain town of Eungella, sourced by the Bowen River
- Stocked with barramundi and sooty grunter
- Known for big sooty grunter catches
- Popular for fishing and water sports
- Some dirt road to access dam

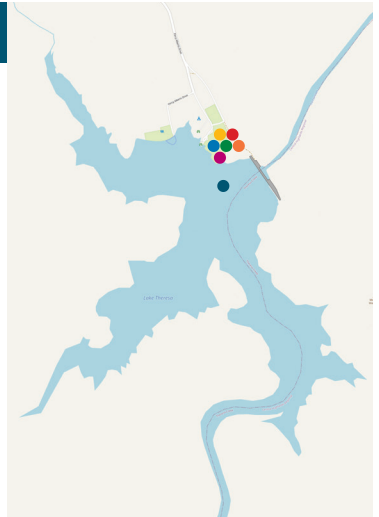


### Facilities



## Theresa Creek Dam

- Located in the town of Theresa Creek, 22 km south-west of Clermont – an oasis in the outback!
- Stocked with barramundi, golden perch and saratoga
- Fish from the shore or by boat
- Popular for fishing and water sports
- Take your own drinking water



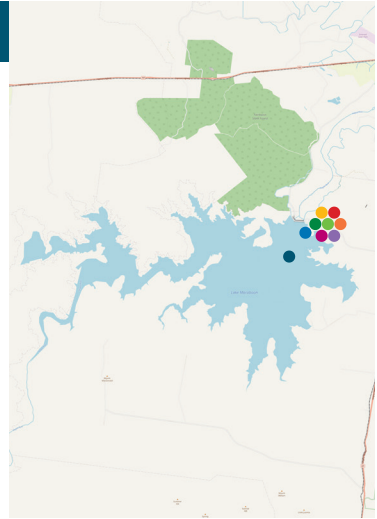
### Facilities



# Stocked dams and weirs

## Fairbarn Dam (Lake Maraboon)

- Located 23 km southwest of Emerald on the Nogoa River
- Stocked with barramundi, golden perch and silver perch
- Second biggest dam in Queensland
- Popular for fishing and water sports
- Redclaw crayfish is the most popular target, with visitors coming solely for crayfishing – they are non-indigenous to the dam and must not be released when caught

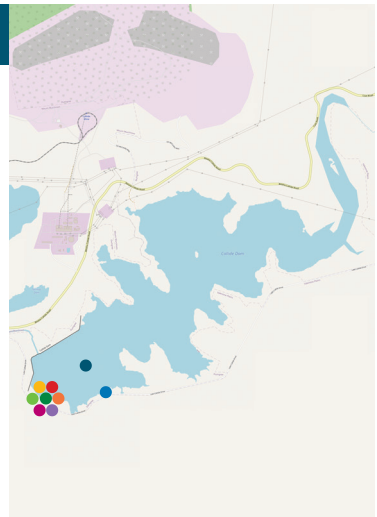


### Facilities



## Callide Dam

- Located 12 km north of Biloela and approx. 90 km south-west of Gladstone
- Stocked with barramundi, golden perch and saratoga
- Renowned for catches of barramundi greater than 1 m for 10 months of the year
- Dam accessible via sealed road
- Self-contained cabins, powered and self-contained van sites and kiosk
- Popular for fishing and water sports



### Facilities



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