

Responses to Questions on Notice

Received at the 25 May 2023
Ordinary Meeting of Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Arnold'.

Mark Arnold
General Manager

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

1 Illegal camping in Brunswick Heads3

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Question with Notice No. 1 Illegal camping in Brunswick Heads

File No: I2023/828

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 25 May 2023, Tom Nursey asked the following question which was taken on notice:

The ongoing issue of illegal Van Camping in Brunswick Heads has spiralled out of control. Residents and visitors are fed up. We have had people from Vans knocking on our door at night asking if they can use the toilet, we navigate through toilet paper and faeces on our way to the beach. This is not a homeless issue to which we are very empathetic. It is, despite councils continued protestations, people living 'the van life' -usually in expensive fully kitted out camper vans. The irony is they are often staying 50 metres from approved camping grounds. The illegal camping occurs along south beach road, both surfside and river side, along banner park, Mona Lane, the carpark between the school and CWA hall and a plethora of other places. This does not occur in Byron Bay. They would be run out of town. It is high time that Council stepped up, co-ordinated and implemented a strategy to return the quality of life to the residents and paying visitors to Brunswick Heads. Why isn't a simple residents parking scheme introduced to the town as occurs in a multitude of other urban councils?

Response Director of Infrastructure Services, Phil Holloway:

Council staff continue to mitigate nuisance camping throughout the Shire with the use of overnight parking restrictions. Several of the locations contained within Tom Nursey's inquiry already have these restrictions in place. Unfortunately, Council's enforcement team is at capacity and cannot have a continual presence within Brunswick Heads.

Regarding the resident parking permit, Council has a permit system that can be used to make exceptions for residents within a restricted area. This permit (Traffic Area Permit) is free for residents who live within a time limited parking area, providing they can meet the criteria within the specified zone ([Parking permit types and supporting documents - Byron Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)). Currently there are only five precincts listed on our website however, staff have made some recent changes which do include Brunswick Heads (Tweed Street Precinct).

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

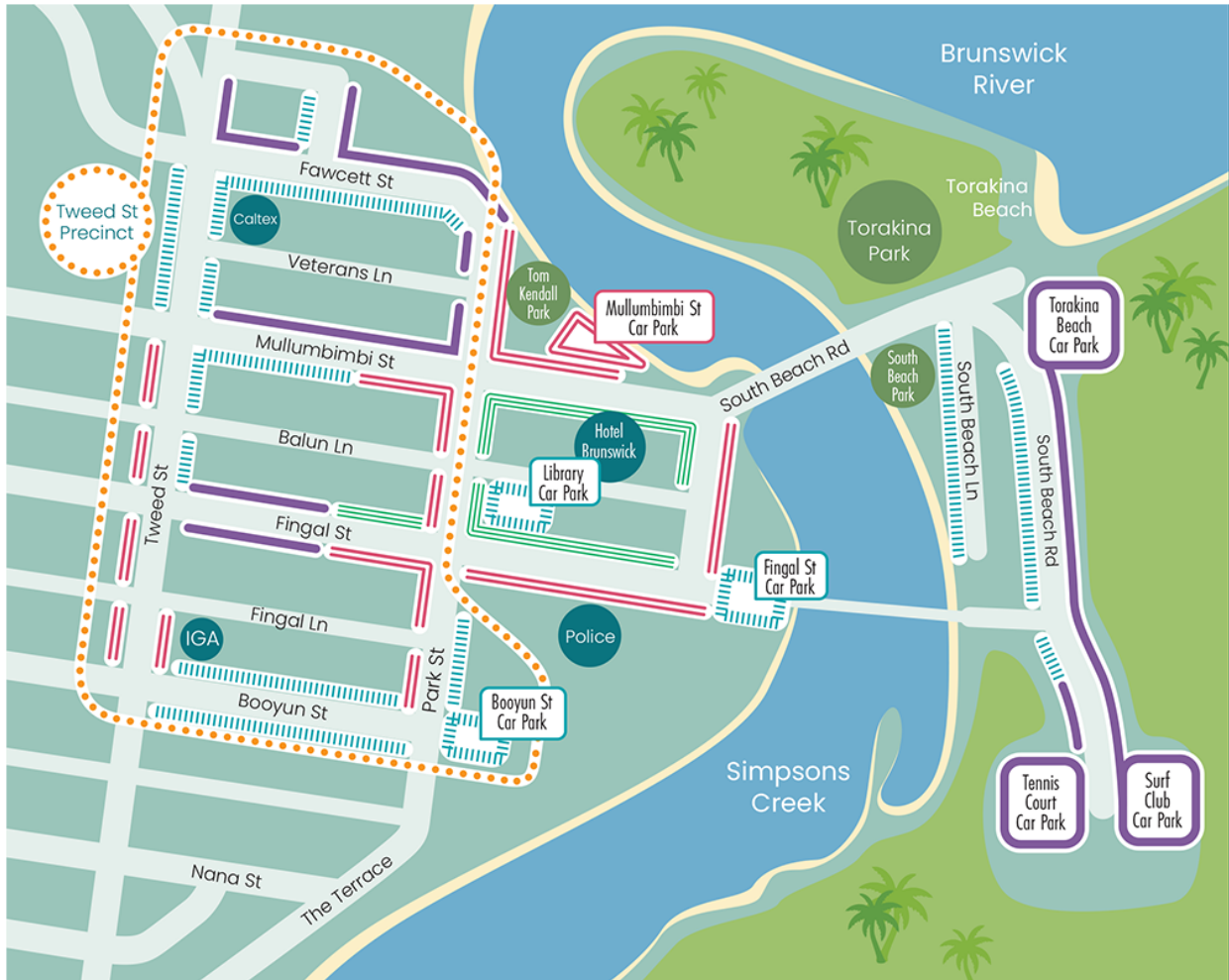


Figure 1: (above) Parking in Brunswick Heads map including current precinct boundary

Council has applied these overnight restrictions in Byron Bay to address the same issues expressed by Tom Nursey in this communication to some success. These restrictions have made it possible for Staff to enforce nuisance camping, however offenders tend to continually circulate to other locations throughout the Shire once a location has been restricted.

To conclude, Council staff will continue to monitor and address nuisance camping on a case-by-case basis and in a way that has minimal impact on residents and visitors.