

Googong

MAP AND GUIDE



environment ACT
ACT URBAN SERVICES

googong foreshores

explore it all



A Regional and National Wildlife Treasure

In addition to being important for catchment and storage of the region's water supply, Googong Foreshores is also a significant Wildlife Refuge for native plants and animals including a number of threatened species.

The Queanbeyan River, within Googong, is home to one of the few remaining wild populations of the threatened Macquarie Perch. The Pink-tailed Worm Lizard, listed as vulnerable nationally, inhabits Googong's native grasslands. Listed as vulnerable in NSW, Rosenberg's Monitor is a Googong resident, laying its eggs in termite mounds. The mounds act as natural incubators. The Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail, Brown Treecreeper and Speckled Warbler are all listed as vulnerable in NSW and also occur at Googong.

Googong protects plants of national or state significance including the Silky Swainson-pea with its purple pea-like flowers and Australian Anchor Plant which has fruit supported on anchor-like discs. These plants occur in open grasslands on the reserve's western side. Unusual Pomaderris and Dillwynia species grow in the woodlands along the Black Wallaby Loop Track or in heathy areas between Tin Hut Dam and Tortoise Inlet. White Box-Yellow Box (Box-Gum) Woodland, an endangered ecological community, also occurs at Googong.

Googong Dam

Whether you like picnicking, birdwatching, bushwalking, mountain bike riding, enjoy sailing and fishing or delving into history—at Googong Foreshores you can do it all.

In the centre of Googong Foreshores is the Googong Dam. It is fed by the Queanbeyan River and numerous creeks which flow into the valley from the surrounding hillsides. The dam is by far the largest in the ACT region.

The management of Googong is aimed at protecting water quality, but there's far more to be experienced than a glass of fresh water from Googong. The protected area around the dam is a Wildlife Refuge for native plants and animals, creating ideal opportunities for birdwatching, bushwalking and viewing wildlife.

The historic London Bridge Homestead beckons visitors to explore the history of farming and settlement in the area. Near the original homestead is the London Bridge Arch, a remarkable natural limestone arch formed by Burra Creek over thousands of years.

At Googong there's something for everyone. It's all yours—*explore it all.*



London Bridge Arch

Looking after Googong

While at Googong Foreshores, you can help to keep the water clean and the Wildlife Refuge healthy by observing the following:

- swimming is only permitted in the Queanbeyan River below the dam wall.
- use the toilets provided.
- take your rubbish home—there are no bins at Googong.
- Googong is a Wildlife Refuge. Therefore all native plants and animals are protected. Leave animals, plants, rocks and wood where you find them.
- pets are not permitted. NO DOGS OR HORSES.
- camping is not permitted at Googong Foreshores.

Picnics and Barbecues

- Wood barbecues are situated at the Downstream Picnic Area (downstream of the dam wall) and the London Bridge Woolshed (southern end of reserve). Use only firewood that is provided.
- Fires are permitted only in the barbecues provided.
- Free gas barbecues are available at Tin Hut.
- Portable gas barbecues may only be used on the gravel pads at the wood barbecue areas (Downstream Picnic area, London Bridge Woolshed) and on the gravel pads at the end of the upper Foreshores car park.
- Barbecues (wood or portable gas) cannot be used when there is a Very High or Extreme Fire Danger. Contact the Ranger Station for details.

Birdwatching

Where there is water there are birds! Over 165 bird species have been recorded at Googong, making it a wonderful place for observing birds. Water birds such as coots, ducks and swans congregate around the shores of the dam.

Tin Hut Dam at the southern end of the reserve features a bird hide with displays, two bird hide screens, bench seats and a loop walk. Spoonbills, several species of duck, herons, egrets and waders can be seen here.

Raptors including the Peregrine Falcon, Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-breasted Sea-Eagle are resident and breeding at Googong. Look for the eagles riding the thermals over Googong.

As well as the dams attracting birds, the woodlands, open forests, grasslands and cool gorges of Googong also provide habitats for a wide range of birds. Ask for the Googong bird list at the Ranger Station.



Mountain Duck

Sailing and Boating

- The following types of watercraft are allowed on the dam: sailing boats, canoes, kayaks and boats with electric motors. The following are not permitted: windsurfers, surf skis, jet skis, boats with fuel motors and boats with electric motors which also have fuel motors, tanks or lines.
- Watercraft are not permitted to land on any banks north of the disabled car park on Drumstick Point (west side of dam) or north of Long Neck Island (east side of dam), or pass the line of marker buoys in front of the Dam Wall (see map). The public are not permitted to enter any fenced-off areas north of the boat ramp on Drumstick Point.
- Boat launching and retrieval is easy from the boat ramps at the Foreshores. Please return cars and trailers to the car park to ensure access for others.
- At Tin Hut car park to the south, boats must be carried or wheeled by hand from the car park to the water's edge 300 metres away.
- All visitors participating in boating should return at least half an hour before closing time. *People using electric motors should carry oars and more than one battery to ensure they have sufficient power and backup to return to the Foreshores' boat ramp or Tin Hut access.*
- NSW Waterways safe boating regulations apply.

Safety

The waters of Googong Dam can be dangerous.

Please note:

- life jackets, bailer, oars and torch should be carried.
- there is no water rescue patrol or service.
- the prevailing winds are towards the inaccessible, eastern shores.
- local weather conditions can change rapidly producing dangerous conditions.
- the water is extremely cold, especially during winter.

Fishing

Googong is a great place to fish. It is managed as a mixed fishery and is stocked with Rainbow Trout, Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Silver Perch.

Some specific points to remember

- The dam is open to fishing all year. Streams and rivers are closed to fishing from the end of the long weekend in June to the beginning of the long weekend in October.
- **NSW fishing regulations apply and a NSW fishing licence is required.**
- Two rods are permitted on the dam but only one in streams and rivers. The use of handlines, traps or nets is not permitted anywhere.
- Bait collection is not permitted. Please bring your own. The use of live fish or frogs is strictly prohibited.
- Bag and size limits apply to most fish.
- There is a closed season on Murray Cod between 1st September and 30th November inclusive.
- Macquarie Perch are totally protected and must not be taken.
- Discarded fishing line kills wildlife. Be sure you take it with you when you leave.



Murray Cod

For more information about fishing phone the rangers at Googong on (02) 6207 2779 or the District NSW Fisheries Officer at Yass on (02) 6226 3867.

Mountain Bikes

There are numerous fire trails throughout the reserve that provide great opportunities for mountain biking. However, it is important that riders stay on the fire trails as off-trail riding will cause erosion and subsequently reduce the quality of our water. Mountain bike riders should not ride on designated foot tracks. Googong offers two excellent rides—see descriptions under ⑥ and ⑧ for details. Please contact the rangers if you are intending to undertake a long ride.



London Bridge Homestead

Opening Hours

Googong Foreshores is a day use area only. Camping is not permitted.

The minimum opening hours for the whole reserve are from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm. The closing time is extended during daylight-saving. The southern end of the reserve closes one hour earlier than the northern end. Googong Foreshores is closed on Christmas Day and when a Total Fire Ban is declared for the NSW Southern Tablelands or the ACT. When the gates are closed, members of the public are not permitted into the reserve, even on foot.

	<i>Queanbeyan/North</i>	<i>Burra/South</i>
Daylight saving	8.00 am–8.00 pm	8.00 am–7.00 pm
Non-daylight saving	8.00 am–6.00 pm	8.00 am–5.00 pm

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the Ranger Station at the northern end of Googong Foreshores or by phoning the rangers on (02) 6207 2779, 0427 288 260 or 0427 818 400.

Information is also available through:

Environment ACT Helpline: (02) 6207 9777

Environment ACT Website: www.environment.act.gov.au

or write to:

Googong Foreshores

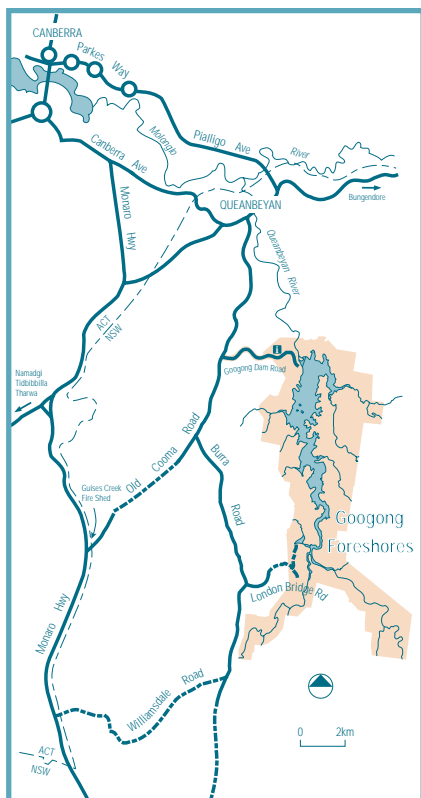
ACT Parks and Conservation Service

RMB 241

Googong Dam Road via Queanbeyan

NSW 2620

Googong Foreshores is 10 km south of Queanbeyan or 30 minutes drive from central Canberra.



ACT Government