

MACKAY AND THE WHITSUNDAYS



# 4 DAMS FISHING

WORLD-CLASS FISHING IN THE HEART OF THE SUNSHINE STATE



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THE WHITSUNDAYS



[fishfourdams.com.au](http://fishfourdams.com.au)

#hookedonmackay

#lovewhitsundays

#meetmackayregion



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## MACKAY AND THE WHITSUNDAYS

# NEVER GET BORED

**MACKAY AND THE WHITSUNDAY REGIONS ARE HOME TO FOUR DAMS THAT OFFER A HUGE DIVERSITY OF WORLD-CLASS FISHING.**

Built with the aim to supply local towns with ample water, the dams also offer a bounty of fishing that will keep you coming back for more.

The Kinchant, Teemburra, Eungella and Peter Faust Dams are all within 35 minutes to 2 hours' drive from the two airports that service the area, Mackay and Whitsunday Coast Airports.

Submerged forests, rich weed beds and even artificial reefs make perfect habitats for sleepy cod, eel-tailed catfish, spangled perch, redclaw crayfish and the master fighters that the region is known for – sooty grunter and barramundi.

With stunning forest backgrounds, convenient camping and accommodation, and friendly locals (both human and animal – just ask the platypuses), the four dams are home to some of the best and most beautiful fishing hot spots in the world.

When you put the rods away, you'll find the region a mecca for water sports, walking and mountain biking.

We have expansive dams that will demand your full repertoire of skills, or smaller dams so you can keep track of what your buddies are catching in plain sight.



**THESE FOUR DAMS** are a key reason why the Mackay/Whitsunday area is considered one of the best fishing destinations in Australia.

One of the reasons these dams offer high-octane barramundi and grunter that are ready to fight is the hard work of the local fish stocking associations. Support them and continue to ensure the fishing stays at its finest by purchasing a Stocked Impoundment Permit online: [www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing/rec-fishing/dams](http://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing/rec-fishing/dams)

<b>HOT SPOT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>VIA</b>
Kinchant Dam	35 minutes west from Mackay	Peak Downs Highway
Teemburra Dam	1 hour and 15 minutes west from Mackay	Peak Downs Highway and North Eton Road
Eungella Dam	1 hour and 45 minutes west from Mackay	Peak Downs Highway and Mackay Eungella Road
Peter Faust Dam, Lake Proserpine	1 hour and 55 minutes north west from Mackay or 35 minutes from Whitsunday Coast Airport	Bruce Highway and Crystalbrook Road
<b>DAM</b>	<b>FISH SPECIES</b>	<b>CAMPING FACILITIES</b>
Kinchant Dam	Barramundi, sooty grunter, sleepy cod, eel-tailed catfish and spangled perch.	Kinchant Waters Campground – self-contained cabins, power/unpowered sites for caravans and tents. Toilets, BBQs, picnic tables, lookout, café, licensed bar and restaurant and pool table.
Teemburra Dam	Barramundi, sooty grunter and bony bream.	Nearest camping accommodation is 27km from dam in Mirani. The campground offers powered and unpowered sites with an adjoining swimming pool.
Eungella Dam	Barramundi, sooty grunter, sleepy cod and saratoga.	Onsite campground with toilets, wood-fired BBQs and picnic tables.
Peter Faust Dam, Lake Proserpine	Barramundi, sooty grunter, sleepy cod, spangled perch, eels and redclaw crayfish.	Accommodation is available at Lions Camp Kanga, just 6 minutes' drive from the dam. Large commercial kitchen, BBQ area, meeting hall, bunk style accommodation rooms with wheelchair access. Also available is a 72 hour lakeside camping area.





# FRESH WATER FISH SPECIES

## Barramundi



**Barramundi** would have to be one of this country's most iconic sports fish and can be caught in both fresh and salt water.

The freshwater fish are generally a lot bigger in girth than the salties as they don't have to fight current or tide, both can be caught using the same methods.

An exciting and popular target for anglers in northern Australia, barramundi responds well to lures either cast or trolled. Large minnow pattern lures are popular and productive when fished around snags, mangrove roots, rocky outcrops, submerged timber and other heavy cover. Bright metallic gold or bronze are particularly popular lure colours for these feisty fellows. Often known for its spectacular leaps from the water during the fight, the barramundi justifiably commands respect from those who seek it out. Barramundi are also popular on heavier weight fly gear. As it's illegal to use saltwater baits in freshwater due to biosecurity risks, try shrimp, yabbies or worm baits.

## Sooty Grunter



**Sooty grunter** are popular freshwater fish in the northern parts of Australia.

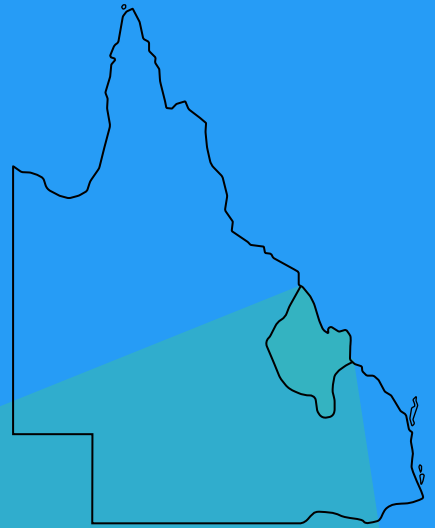
Sooty grunter as the name suggests, range from a dark black colour to almost purple (hence its other name purple grunter). The sooty grunter's fins are the same colour as its body. Sooty grunter have a deep body tapering down to a relatively small head. They have a small mouth with obvious lips. Common around 0.5-1.5kg but can grow as large as 3kgs.

Sooty grunter can be caught on most fresh baits suited to freshwater fishing such as live shrimp, yabbies, or worms. However most sooty nowadays are targeted with small lures and flies. Usually small surface poppers around dawn and dusk can be very successful and loads of fun. Switch to minnows and sub surface lures as the sun gets higher and concentrate the casting to cover and snag areas.

**STRETCHING FROM MACKAY TO PROSERPINE  
THIS COMPACT AREA IS EASILY REACHED BY CAR  
OR BY AIR. THE DAMS ARE REGULARLY STOCKED  
TO ENSURE THERE ARE A GOOD SUPPLY OF FISH  
TO CATCH.**



**SEE MORE ONLINE**  
[fishqueensland.com.au](http://fishqueensland.com.au)



PETER FAUST DAM,  
LAKE PROSERPINE



PROSERPINE



AIRLIE  
BEACH



EUNGELLA  
DAM



TEEMBURRA  
DAM



KINCHANT  
DAM



MACKAY



# KINCHANT DAM

## SMALL DAM, BIG FISH

**The smallest of the four dams, Kinchant Dam is famous for being home to huge barramundi and being the first dam to have artificial reefs installed.**

Built in 1977, Kinchant Dam is 9.2km<sup>2</sup> of fishing and water sports heaven. Skiing, biscuiting and jet skiing are all popular local pastimes, but nothing beats the local obsession with fishing this small dam for big rewards.

Motor past grassy banks with the sun rising through the mist. Dotted with lily pads and black swans, Kinchant Dam is picture perfect fishing.

Installed in 2019, the artificial reefs provide the structure that barramundi and other fish love to

shelter in. There's a fine line between opting for lighter tackle to avoid snags and having enough weight to keep the huge barramundi on the line.

It's not uncommon to catch multiple barramundi measuring more than a metre in length. The best conditions for barramundi in Kinchant Dam are no wind or clouds and plenty of warm sunshine. Look for birds feeding around weeds, rocks or other structures.

There is a fruitful gutter running at the edge of a shallow bay on the western side of the dam. Another hot spot can be found near the dam wall on the eastern side of the lake.

Once you dry off, it's worth exploring the Kinchant Dam area walking tracks or snapping on the helmet and mountain biking the beautiful terrain.



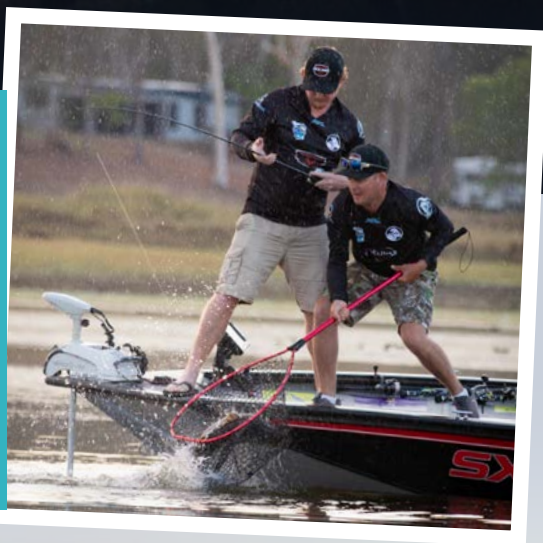




## GET HOOKED

The Kinchant Dam barramundi prefer to attack smaller lures so size down if you're not having any luck.

.....  
**DON'T FORGET** to purchase a Stocked Impoundment Permit:  
[www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing/rec-fishing/dams](http://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing/rec-fishing/dams)



# TEEMBURRA DAM

## FULL REPERTOIRE FISHING



**Teemburra Dam doesn't offer the monster-sized fish species of the other dams, but the fish here are absolutely firing from a huge diversity of freshwater habitats - you'll never get bored.**

Set in the picturesque Pioneer Valley, Teemburra Dam is a nature lover's paradise of inlets and coves full of fish, birds and sneaky platypus. Relatively new, the dam was constructed in 1997 for irrigation purposes, but today it is a mecca for anglers.

This is the only one of the four dams with a restricted speed limit of 25 horsepower. This makes it perfect for quieter fishing and canoe fishing experiences that you won't forget.





And while the barramundi average about 70cm in length, they bite often and put up a fight. Look for lily and weed beds, bays of standing timber and areas where the shallow water drops off. The barramundi are biting everywhere.

So much so that you'll be able to see barramundi cruising in the shallows and displacing the grass stalks. If you're specifically after the bigger barramundi, look for concentrations of bait.

Don't forget about the feisty sooty grunter. One of the locals' favourite grunter spots is along the creek up to the old sunken homestead.

It would be tough to find a more varied, rewarding or picturesque fishing spot in Australia.



## GET HOOKED

If you're looking for grunter specifically, they'll take a variety of hard and soft lures, or you can use a popper.





# EUNGELLA DAM

LAND OF UNDERWATER FORESTS

## GET HOOKED



The easiest way to find sooty grunter is to figure out where the shags (cormorants) are roosting. Sooties will sit directly below and eat the cormorant droppings. Branches closer to the water tend to make for better fishing.



**There's no room for lazy casting into Eungella Dam, once you find the right spot you'll have sooties striking your gear as soon as it hits the water. Drive through green forests of Eungella National Park, with mini waterfalls cascading down rock walls after the rain.**



Set up camp on grassy banks under the shade of trees, then launch your boat off the ramp within minutes. It's time to get started.

The inky black of a sooty grunter is a welcome sight and you'll find plenty on the bite. The local fish stocking association has put more than 260,000 grunter into the dam.

To find our favourite grunter spots motor through the drowned forests of trees in the upper reaches of the dam or head for the rocky bank near the south east corner of the dam wall.

Grunter are most active during the early morning, midday and late afternoon. Stick to fishing the shallower water during the low light periods, then head for the deeper water around the middle of the day and fish submerged trees.

Now it's time for some acrobatics! There is no thrill that comes close to praying your gear holds while you reel in a huge barramundi that's doing everything in its power to spit your lure.

There are no restrictions on vessel type in the Eungella Dam so it's also a great spot to bring the water sports gear. There are also plenty of trails for walking, hiking and mountain biking.

For a small dam, Eungella is pumping with fish. Spend a day here and then decide for yourself whether you enjoy catching grunter or barramundi best.





# PETER FAUST DAM LAKE PROSERPINE

## BIG DAM, MONSTER FISH

This is easily the largest of the four dams and celebrated for its genuinely big fish. From the first hit, through battling with every turn of the reel, fishing for big fish will get your heart pumping.





# GET HOOKED



Peter Faust Dam , Lake Proserpine fishing really comes alive from 3pm and through into the night.



**LISTEN TO THE BIRDS SERENADE** you from the gentle slope of the grassy wild camping site. Get jealous of the pelicans catching their fill as you launch the boat, the anticipation of getting the gear wet building.

Welcome to the home of the 'big one'. Locals and visitors alike fall in love with the big fishing battles of the expansive Peter Faust Dam, Lake Proserpine.

It's not uncommon for at least half of your fishing haul to be more than 1m in length.

With more than 43km<sup>2</sup> of dam to explore, you'll easily find a quiet spot. Giant barramundi cruise these waters, smashing prominent points or bay edges with large hidden weed beds. For best results, work the lure from deep to shallow water.

The dam can get windy, but don't let that cause you to pull up anchor. Those in the know understand that the wind improves water oxygenation and forces bait fish to ball together, making hot spots for larger barramundi and aggressive sooty grunter.

These fish know how to find a snag and use it to their advantage, so don't cast too far from your boat in the Peter Faust Dam, Lake Proserpine.

If you're going to be fishing in monster territory, you'll need the right gear to give you a fighting chance. Try an 8-strand braided main line that can handle 30-50lbs or a fluorocarbon leader.

It's worth bringing your pots and nets to catch a feed of redclaw crayfish. Cook it up on the BBQ or campfire and serve it as the hero of your sandwich.

## THE IMPORTANT STUFF

- Sealed road to the dam
- Concrete boat ramp for craft up to 8 metres
- Two wash down bays
- Three new pontoons (at camping, boat ramp and day use areas)
- 72 hour camping area
- Male and female toilets and shower facilities at camping area
- Tables and chairs, BBQ facilities and toilets at day use areas



## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

### **Bowen Visitor Information Centre**

Big Mango, Bruce Highway, Bowen Qld 4805

P: (07) 4786 4222

E: [info@tourismbowen.com.au](mailto:info@tourismbowen.com.au)

### **Mackay Region Visitor Information Centre**

Sarina Field of Dreams, 1 Railway Square, Sarina Qld 4737

P: (07) 4837 1228

E: [bookings@mackayregion.com](mailto:bookings@mackayregion.com)

### **Mackay Visitor Information Kiosk**

Bluewater Lagoon, Mackay Qld 4740

P: (07) 4837 1228

E: [bookings@mackayregion.com](mailto:bookings@mackayregion.com)

### **Whitsundays Visitor Information Centre**

12505 Bruce Highway, Proserpine Qld 4800

P: (07) 4945 3967

E: [info@tourismwhitsundays.com.au](mailto:info@tourismwhitsundays.com.au)

