

Fraser Island

In Queensland, one of the roles of the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (DNPRSR) is to manage national parks and their use and enjoyment by all Queenslanders.



Queensland's protected area estate covers more than eight million hectares and includes national parks, marine parks, forests, declared fish habitat areas, resources reserves and conservation parks.

National parks are the cornerstone of Queensland's protected area estate and are an important part of the natural environment and cultural heritage. Through proper management, the department's aim is to ensure that the parks are protected, accessible and valued by all visitors.

One of the parks the DNPRSR is responsible for is the Great Sandy National Park on Fraser Island; approximately 4 hours drive North of Brisbane, Queensland.

Fraser Island stretches over 123 kilometres in length and 22 kilometres at its widest point. With an area of 184 000 hectares, it is the largest sand island in the world.

Fraser Island's World Heritage listing ranks it with Australia's Uluru, Kakadu and the Great Barrier Reef. Fraser Island is a precious part of Australia's natural and cultural heritage; it is protected for all to appreciate and enjoy.

Fraser Island is the only place in the world where tall rainforests are found growing on sand dunes at elevations of over 200 metres.

One of the primary concerns for the DNPRSR is the safety of visitors to Fraser Island. With mobile phone coverage poor

at best and in most cases, not possible at all, a reliable radio communications network is vital to every day operations and critical in times of emergency.

DNPRSR had only a single stand-alone repeater site with limited coverage on the island and due to accidents and on going safety concerns, they required a wider radio coverage footprint.

The DNPRSR turned to AA Radio for the coverage survey, system design, installation and project management of two new additional sites to enhance coverage across the island.

AA Radio was chosen for this project based on a proven history delivering successful projects for the DNPRSR and extensive local knowledge on the island and surrounding region.

The principal challenge faced by the AA Radio Projects Team over the two to three week project, was getting the new sites up on the island without power. With very little in the way of local infrastructure and access to various parts of the island solely dependent on the tides, the AA Radio Projects Team experienced several challenges.

AA Radio worked closely with fabricators and specifically designed tilt solar poles and outdoor cabinets to be able to withstand the extreme environment. The tilt solar poles allow for simplified access in time of repair and maintenance due to the hinged spring base.

The Tait T800 repeaters installed in the additional sites have been DNPRSR's repeater of choice for a number of years.

The rugged and reliable T800 Series have proven their reliability and superior RF performance time and time again.

AA Radio successfully completed the project on time, on budget and delivered a result that exceeded DNPRSR's expectations.

The design by the AA Radio Projects Team allows for the option to upgrade to fully linked system in the future.



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