

Xmas and Easter Holidays Frequently Asked Questions

FREE BUSES

Selected bus services will be free for the Christmas Queensland State School Holidays.

Christmas: 9 December 2023 until 21 January 2024.

Easter: 29 March to 14 April 2024.

Free Translink Services

Route 626 Tewantin to Sunrise Beach via Noosa Heads

- Route 627 Tewantin to Sunshine Beach via Noosa Heads
- Route 628 Noosa Parklands to Noosa Junction via Noosa Civic
- Route 629 Tewantin to Noosa Junction via Noosa Civic
- Route 632 Noosa to Cooran via Cooroy and Pomona.

Temporary Route 064 Peregian Beach – Noosa Heads

There will be an additional hourly shuttle service between Peregian Beach and Noosa Heads. The Free service is numbered 064. Note the 620 service which travels into Noosa from the Sunshine Coast Council area will still operate but it will be a paid service.

If you're travelling in Noosa Shire make sure you catch the Free 064 service.

If you want to travel south of Noosa, make sure you hop off at Peregian Beach and then catch the 620 service.

The timetable is available on Council's Go Noosa website

Temporary Route 065 Go Noosa Loop Bus

Buses will run approximately every:

- 15 minutes from 7am 7pm
- 30 minutes from 7pm 10pm
- 30 minutes 7pm New Year's Eve until 1am New Year's Day.

Note: traffic congestion may impact on the service frequency.

The Go Noosa Loop Bus will travel in clockwise direction and service Noosa Drive, Weyba Road, Noosa Parade, Hastings Street.

The bus will stop at existing bus stops on the loop (as requested) as well as at temporary bus stops outside the Noosa AFL grounds/Farmers Market and near the Post Office in Noosa Junction (opposite The J).

Timetables

Timetables and route maps for **Routes 626**, **627**, **628**, **629** and **632** are available at Translink.com.au/noosa or call 13 12 30 anytime or download Go Noosa App or MyTranslink App.

Timetable and route map for temporary **Route 064** are available at https://www.noosa.gld.gov.au/go-noosa-holidays or call Noosa Council at 5329 6500.

Temporary **Route 065** map is available at https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/go-noosa-holidays There is no set timetable, buses will run approximately every 15 minutes from 7am – 7pm and every 30 minutes from 7pm – 10pm. Note traffic congestion may impact on the service frequency

Evening Services

Most free bus services terminate before **7:30pm**. However, the free 065 Go Noosa Loop Bus will operate half-hourly services from **7pm-10pm**. The service will be extended on New Year's Eve until **1am New Year's Day**.

Paid Translink Bus Services

Only buses that travel solely within Noosa are free. Normal ticketing fares apply to all bus services that travel outside the Noosa Shire area and are not free:

- Route 620 Noosa Heads to Maroochydore.
- Route 622 Maroochydore to Noosa Junction.
- Route 630 Noosa Junction to Nambour via Eumundi.
- Route 631 Noosa Junction to Nambour via Eumundi and Cooroy

Fare and timetable information is available at www.Translink.com.au or call 13 12 30 anytime or download MyTranslink App.

Boreen Point - Tewantin FlexiLink & Council Cabs

The Boreen Point-Tewantin Flexilink & Council Cabs services will operate as per usual.

For details refer to the Council Cabs & Flexilink webpage.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question: What Covid Safe measures will be in place on the free buses?

Please follow Queensland Health directives.

Question: How do I know which buses are free?

If you want to catch a free bus look for the sign that reads FREE BUS on the front of the dashboard of the approaching bus. Make sure you know your travel plans and bus route number, Free Bus routes include:

- Route 626 Tewantin to Sunrise Beach via Noosa Heads
- Route 627 Tewantin to Sunshine Beach via Noosa Heads
- Route 628 Noosa Parklands to Noosa Junction via Noosa Civic
- Route 629 Tewantin to Noosa Junction via Noosa Civic

- Route 632 Noosa to Cooran via Cooroy and Pomona.
- Temporary Route 064 Peregian Beach Noosa Heads
- Temporary Route 065 Go Noosa Loop Bus

Question: What assists the buses to not get stuck in traffic congestion?

Traffic Control in the Hastings Street precinct aims to assist the movement of buses, pedestrians and vehicle traffic flow. Previous survey data showed that through the use of traffic controllers, bus travel time from Noosa Junction to Hastings Street was reduced from 14 minutes to 9 minutes. Keep in mind that the buses have excellent aircon!

Question: There are no free buses where I live?

People are encouraged to consult the free bus route map and drive, cycle, or walk to their nearest bus stop to catch a free bus. The free buses operate within the Noosa Shire boundary only (e.g not to Coolum, Eumundi as these are in the Sunshine Coast Council area).

Question: I tried to get on a bus and was told I had to pay

Only buses that travel solely within the Noosa Shire boundary are free. Bus services that travel outside of the Shire (Routes 620, 622, 630, 631) are not included in the free services.

Question: I see that some buses don't operate at night, if I take the bus, will I be stranded after hours?

The 065 Go Noosa Loop Bus is the only free service in the evening (half hourly from 7pm-10pm). However, there are some paid bus services in the evening. If you plan on staying out later into the evening, please check the bus timetables at www.translink.com.au/noosa or call 13 12 30 anytime to ensure you plan your return trip.

Question: Will the buses operate on public holidays?

Most free buses will operate to a week-end timetable on public holidays, with the exception of Christmas Day. For all public holiday bus timetable information download the MyTranslink app, visit Translink.com.au or call 13 12 30.

The temporary 065 Go Noosa Loop Bus **will** operate to the normal timetable on all public holidays including the Christmas long weekend. The loop bus **will** run on New Years Eve until 1am on the 1 January 2022.

For New Year's Eve and New Year's Day bus service information, please check the Translink website closer to the date. For current information refer to the Events page on the Translink website: https://Translink.com.au/plan-your-journey/event-transport

Download the MyTranslink app, visit Translink.com.au or call 13 12 30.

Question: Can I bring items such as a surfboard, pram, scooter, bicycle or dog on to the bus?

Surfboard – Yes (standard, not long board)

Pram - Yes

Scooter –Yes (non-electric only)

Bicycle – No, due to the size of a bicycle and the space available on the bus standard bicycles cannot be accommodated however foldable biicycles can be brought onto the bus provided that it can be carried in a bag no bigger than 90cm x 70cm x 36cm.

Dog – For the safety and comfort of all passengers, animals are not permitted on any Translink service, with the exception of: guide, hearing or assistance dogs.

The above requirements are Translink regulations. For more information visit

https://Translink.com.au/travel-with-us/using-public-transport or call Translink on 13 12 30.

Question: Does the 065 Go Noosa Loop Bus travel along Gympie Terrace (Noosaville Foreshore)?

The 065 Go Noosa Loop bus is a high frequency service (every 15 mins 7am-7pm, every 30mins 7pm-10pm) servicing Noosa Parade, Noosa Drive and Weyba Road. In order to maintain this frequency the bus does not travel the length of the Noosaville Foreshore but it does stop at William St bus stop on Noosa Parade which is a 400m walk to the southern end of Gympie Terrace. Free Buses servicing Gympie Terrace include Routes 626 and 627 and are approximately every 15 minutes.

Question: Does the 065 Go Noosa Loop Bus stop in Noosa Junction?

The 065 Go Noosa Loop bus is a high frequency service servicing Noosa Parade, Noosa Drive and Weyba Road. In order to maintain this frequency the bus does not travel into Noosa Junction Transit Centre but it does stop on Noosa Drive outside the Noosa Junction Post Office opposite The J theatre.

Question: Why isn't there a bus from Hastings Street to Noosa National Park?

The Free Holiday Buses makes use of the existing Translink bus services.

Question: Will there be free buses over all school holidays?

Free holiday buses are currently only in place for Christmas and Easter school holidays and weekends until February 2024.

Question: Are the free buses mostly used by tourists?

No, survey data has consistently shown that almost 70% of free holiday bus users are Noosa Shire residents. The free buses are used by both tourists and residents.

Question: What services are there for the Hinterland?

Route 632 Noosa to Cooran via Cooroy and Pomona, operates three services a day. Routes 630 & 631 travel outside of the Noosa Shire boundary and are not included in the free bus services. Residents are encouraged to make use of Park & Ride locations (refer Section 2) to access additional free buses.

Park & Ride

Avoid entering the busy Hastings Street precinct by private vehicle and consider Park & Ride. Free parking is available from a number of locations and serviced by free buses, discounted frequent traveller ferry pass and walking/cycling routes.

Noosa AFC Grounds (Noosa Farmers Market), 149 Weyba Rd Noosaville

This dedicated Park & Ride has approximately 400 car parks and is serviced by the free 065 Go Noosa Loop Bus which runs every 15 mins from 7am-7pm and every 30mins from 7pm-10pm.

Note the Noosa Farmers Market are located at the Noosa AFC grounds every Sunday from 5am – midday – car parking availability may vary.

Noosa Junction Transit Centre

From 9 Dec 2023 – 21 Jan 2024, approximately 40 of the 2-hour car parking bays at the Noosa Junction Transit Centre car park have temporarily been increased to 6 hour parking (refer orange in photo below) and approx. 15 of the 2 hour car parking bays have temporarily been converted to 1/2hr parking (refer purple in photo below).



The Noosa Junction Transit Centre is serviced approximately every 7-15 mins by the following free buses:

- Route 626 Tewantin to Sunrise Beach via Noosa Heads
- Route 627 Tewantin to Sunshine Beach via Noosa Heads
- Route 628 Noosa Parklands to Noosa Junction via Noosa Civic
- Route 629 Tewantin to Noosa Junction via Noosa Civic
- Route 632 Noosa to Cooran via Cooroy and Pomona.
- Temporary Route 064 Peregian Beach Noosa Heads

The J

There are approximately 100 car parks at The J (note limited availability on Sunday).

The J carpark is approximately a 1.6km walk to Hastings Street.

If you require disabled parking, there is a higher level of service from The J carpark, Noosa Junction.

Note The J carpark is utilised by Hillsong Church every Sunday for services at 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:30pm

Question: Is the former bowls club car park open?

Yes, the former bowls club car park is owned by a private developer and is not a public car park however they have kindly opened the car park from 8am to 6pm, from 9 Dec – 21 Jan 2024. Alternatively, there are approx. 400 free car parks at the Noosa AFL ground, Weyba road as well as long stay parking at the Noosa Junction Transit Centre and The J car park.

Choose your own Park & Ride

Park anywhere along the routes and catch a bus, walk, ride or hop on the ferry! (Normal parking restrictions apply).

Car Park Technology Trial

Question: What will the Variable Message Signs (VMS) say?

The VMS boards will advise drivers of Main Beach car park capacity at the Noosa Woods, Noosa

Current as of 24.11.23

Main Beach, National Park and Noosa Parade/Noosa Drive car parks, and alternate park and ride locations. A map will be available at https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/go-noosa-holidays to inform of the car park locations once the trial goes live.

Question: Is there a website with real-time information for residents?

Residents and visitors will be able to access real-time parking availability from Council's website at https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/go-noosa-holidays Once the platform has been tested after the Go live date. This will be located under the Car Park Technology trial section of the Go Noosa Holidays page.

Question: Where are the VMS boards located?

The signs have been located on key roads entering the Noosa Heads precinct. The signs are designed to help motorists make a decision on how they want to access Hastings St precinct before they get into the congested areas (e.g. Noosa Parade, Noosa Hill) by which point it can be difficult to turn around. The locations of the signs allows people enough time to change plans and to access a free bus at Noosaville, Noosa Junction or Tewantin instead of getting caught in traffic trying to drive all the way to Hastings St.

Question: The sign is too bright/too dark.

The VMS boards are on a timer to adjust to day light and night light, occasionally the computer wifi drops out and resorts to factory settings. The VMS boards will be monitored and adjusted accordingly.

Traffic Control and Temporary Wayfinding

Question: What do the traffic controllers do?

During busy holiday periods Council employs Traffic Controllers to assist in the management of traffic in the Hastings Street area, with the primary aim of prioritising buses and pedestrians.

The role of the traffic controllers is to give priority to buses and pedestrians where possible as well as improve the overall flow of traffic.

Visitors entering the Hastings St area need to be aware that cars will not always have priority. This is why Council is promoting park and ride opportunities.

Traffic controllers are not used at night, during wet weather or other times when traffic conditions do not require management.

Question: Why is the left-hand lane on the roundabout coming down Noosa Drive towards Hastings Street blocked?

Traffic control on Noosa Drive is to give priority to buses departing the bus station from Noosa Parade and also to assist with traffic flows and relieve congestion at the roundabout.

Current safety regulations and guidelines allow only one traffic controller to control only one lane of traffic at any one time.

There are currently two approach lanes on Noosa Drive at the roundabout and therefore the left turn lane is closed at times to allow the traffic controller to safely operate and control traffic.

A review of the use of traffic control over Christmas was undertaken by an independent traffic engineer who concluded that the implementation of traffic control has assisted with bus prioritisation and traffic flow. Parallel Parking Changes – Hastings St Noosa Drive

Parallel parking bays will be reinstated following the peak holiday period.

Observations have shown that parallel parking in Hastings Street during peak periods can exacerbate traffic congestion due to the time vehicles take to reverse parallel park. Based on the 2018/19 Go Noosa trials, the temporary reassignment of eight parallel car parks had the desired effect of improving the flow of traffic along Hastings Street and in turn improving vehicle access to the 400 car parking spaces in Noosa Woods.

Council has consulted with the Hastings Street Association and has support for the temporary changes.

It is proposed that four parallel parks be temporarily replaced with increased footpath space/motorcycle parking through the use of existing bollards.

To improve safety, police presence and traffic wait times during the peak period of 22 Dec to 8 Jan, three car parks on Noosa Drive adjacent to the taxi rank will be converted to police vehicles only. This trial will be monitored to determine the effect on traffic congestion.

Noosa Heads Lions Park - Paid Parking

Christmas dates: Saturday 9, Sunday 10, Saturday 16, Sunday 17, Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 December 2023, Tuesday 26 December 2023 to Sunday 14 January 2024, Saturday 20 to 21 January 2024 (Queensland Christmas school holidays).

Easter dates: Friday 29 March to Sunday 14 April 2024 (Queensland Easter school holidays).

Park Hours: 8.30am-5.30pm,

Fee: Flat rate of \$20.

The car park is closed during wet weather to reduce damage to the park. Even if it is not actually raining, it may have rained heavily the night before and therefore parking on the grass may damage the grounds.

The bitumen car park opposite the Noosa Heads Lions Park is still 4hr parking (not paid). The green space at the Noosa Heads Lions Park is temporarily converted into a paid car park. It is managed by the Tewantin Noosa Lions Club, who receives 50% of the income. The remaining funds are used by Council to fund peak period traffic management initiatives - e.g. free buses, traffic control, park refurbishment etc.

The car park will be locked at 5.30pm sharp. Vehicles left in the area will be locked in overnight until the park reopens at 8.30am.

Noosa Ferry

For all queries relating to Noosa Ferry & Cruise Company please contact the operator directly at noosaferry.com or ph 5449 8442.

Walking & Cycling

Walking and cycling are a great way to get around Noosa.

Walking & Cycling Route Maps

Question: Are bike riders allowed to ride on the footpath?

Yes bike riders are allowed to ride on the footpath unless signed otherwise. Bike riders should keep left and give way to all pedestrians and always ride to the left of bicycle riders coming toward you.

Question: Do bike riders have to ride in a bicycle lane if there is one?

You can choose whether or not to ride in a bicycle lane where one is provided. You must not ride in a bicycle lane on the wrong side of the road (travelling towards oncoming traffic).

A bicycle lane is a marked lane with either a bicycle lane sign or a road marking of a bicycle symbol and the word 'lane' painted in white. The road may be painted green.

You can ride on the road shoulder or either side of a continuous white edge line on a bicycle. However, you must give way to vehicles on the road when moving back into the lane from the road shoulder.

Question: Do you have to wear a helmet when riding a bike?

Yes, when you ride a bicycle or an electric powered wheeled recreational device or a personal mobility device like a rideable, you must wear an Australian Standard (AS) approved bicycle helmet.

Question: What should a bike rider do when approaching a pedestrian from behind?

Our roads and shared pathways are safer and more enjoyable when everyone obeys the rules and treat others with respect. When riding a bike remember to:

- slow down on crowded paths
- ride at appropriate speeds by slowing down when passing or overtaking
- sound your bell to let other people know that you are approaching
- keep as far left as possible
- be considerate to others
- ride in a predictable manner
- expect the unexpected
- create a safe and friendly environment by saying a quick 'hello' or 'thank you' when passing.

Question: What do I need to do when riding a bike through a roundabout?

Cyclists can choose whether they feel safer riding in the bicycle lane or take up the whole lane like other road users. Like motorists, cyclists must give way to vehicles already on the roundabout. Use hand signals (where practical) to change lanes and to exit a roundabout.

For a handy video on cycling through a roundabout visit

https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/community/transport-and-roads/roads/roundabouts

For more information on bicycle road rules and safety, including scooters, skateboards and other wheeled devises visit https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/wheeled-devices

Funding

Question: How are the Go Noosa trials funded?

The Go Noosa Trials are funded by the Sustainable Transport Levy and revenue from the paid parking at Noosa Heads Lions Park.

Other

Question: Are there lockers in Hastings Street?

Yes there are lockers available at the former Police Beat Building, 48 Hastings Street, and on the Eastern Side of the Noosa Heads Surf Club. Prices vary ranging on size of locker and length of time required.

Underground Surf Noosa offers short and long term surfboard storage on Hastings Street. For more information visit https://www.undergroundsurf.com.au/pages/board-storage