

## User

What are the best overnight options for the section between Echuca and Shepparton?

## Response from Earth Rivers and Ironbark Planner

For the section between Echuca and Shepparton, which is Stage 1 of the ERI, your overnight options range from established commercial resorts to remote free camping in National and Regional Parks.

### Commercial Options

- **Wakiti Creek Resort:** Located approximately 33 km from Echuca (4 km off-route), this resort offers commercial camping and a park shop.
- **Undera Hotel:** Situated 81 km into the route (7 km off-route). While the hotel has accommodation, it is rarely available, so it is best to check in advance.
- **Echuca and Shepparton/Mooroopna:** Both major towns at either end of this 98 km section have numerous hotels, motels, and commercial caravan parks if you prefer to stay in town before or after this leg.

### Free Camping Options

- **River Murray Reserve:** Offers free camping along the Murray River between 8 km and 12 km from Echuca.
- **Lower Goulburn National Park:** Free camping is available throughout the park, specifically in the bush areas between the 27 km and 88 km marks. Note that there are no amenities, and the river banks are steep and muddy, so you must carry your own water.
- **Shepparton Regional Park:** Provides free camping between 92 km and 114 km. A helpful tip for this area: plan to set your camp about 5–10 km away from the Shepparton township for a better experience.

### Important Considerations for this Section

- **Self-Sufficiency:** There are no shops or amenities directly on the route for the 98 km stretch between Echuca and Shepparton. You must carry enough food, water, and emergency supplies to survive overnight in case of a mechanical mishap.
- **Surface Conditions:** Over 50% of this stage consists of earth and clay tracks. These surfaces become extremely slippery and eventually unrideable when wet, transforming into sticky mud that clogs wheels. Avoid this section during or immediately after rain.

### Mandatory Safety Rules

- **Navigation:** The ERI has no signage and requires offline navigation via GPX files. Because of occasional mobile blackspots, a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is also strongly recommended.
- **Flood Warning:** This section (Stage 1) is a high-risk area for flooding, particularly in October and November. You should check Goulburn River levels at the Shepparton or McCoys Bridge gauges online before riding; the tracks are generally dry if the river level has not been above 6 metres recently.

Would you like me to create a full multi-day ride plan for your trip?