



Coastal

Outcome 2041:

Our coastal areas are healthy, resilient to climate change impacts and support sustainable use.

Target:

Maintain and improve the health of our coast to good or excellent grade by 2041.





The coast is the tidal foreshore and adjacent areas that include the built and natural environments. Defining natural features incorporate the coastal plains, dunes, open beaches, rocky shores, estuaries, and near-shore marine waters, reefs and coastal lagoons.

The natural features of the coast support varying habitats and include sand dunes, beaches, high ecological value waters, the Ramsar-listed Pumicestone Passage, and the Mount Coolum, Mooloolah River and Bribie Island National Parks. The coast supports numerous iconic species, including dolphins, whales, migratory birds, the vulnerable dugong and green turtle, and the endangered loggerhead turtle.

The coast has supported the cultural values and the provision of resources to Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years. Additionally, there are numerous sites of historical significance post-European settlement along the coastline.

Our coastal environments contribute significantly to our identity and lifestyles. Locals and tourists continue to admire the coastal landscapes and access the coastal environment to enjoy activities such as swimming, surfing, fishing, snorkelling, and recreating along the coastal pathways. The coast is critical for the tourism industry, which is a significant part of the regional economy.

Use and enjoyment of the coast is maximised when ecosystems are healthy and supported by appropriately located, designed and serviced coastal parklands, paths, beach accesses and other supporting facilities.

Coastal foreshores are dynamic and can change location and form over time in response to waves, ocean currents, sand deposition and coastal erosion. Weather and tides generate currents, waves and water level variations. In turn, these drive long-shore movement of sand from south to north and alternating erosion and accretion of the foreshore. Some processes create coastal hazards such as erosion and inundation that threaten buildings, assets and communities.

The natural values of the coast can be adversely affected by land use activities and associated issues, such as invasive plants and animals, littering, stormwater and wastewater discharges. Natural areas are typically able to better accommodate the effects of coastal processes and serve to buffer developed lands and infrastructure from coastal hazards.

Most of the Sunshine Coast's significantly modified coastal foreshores are highly used and have significant built assets located directly next to the foreshore. These assets are typically protected by seawalls, revetment walls or groynes and the adjacent beaches are often reliant on periodic sand re-nourishment.



Planning for change

The drivers of change will have varying levels of impacts on coastal areas and will continue to present challenges for the future.

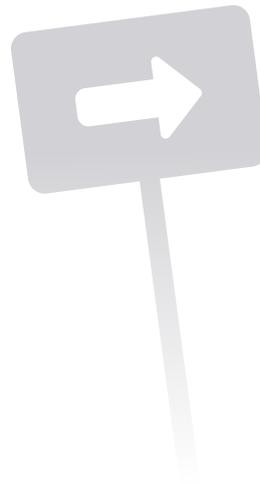
Key impacts may include:

- changes to coastal ecosystem dynamics and plant and animal species distributions
- increased impacts on natural environments and built environments from coastal hazards
- poorer water quality, increased vegetation clearing and hydrological modifications due to increasing population growth and climate change
- increased demand and potential conflict for community access and use for tourism and recreation activities.

To proactively respond to these likely impacts and seek new opportunities, a strong set of policy positions has been prepared to achieve the desired outcome.

Council's role

Council plays a key role in the planning and management of our beaches, dunes, coastal environment reserves and shoreline protection structures through a combination of regulatory and legislative powers, as an infrastructure planner and provider and as an advocate to other levels of government and private landowners. Collaborative partnerships and information sharing with the community are valued components of council's approach to coastal management.





Coastal policy positions

4.1 The natural values and function of coastal environments are preserved:

- a Natural coastal processes are preserved.
- b Coastal landforms, habitats and vegetation communities are protected and enhanced.
- c Native coastal fauna populations are maintained and enhanced.
- d Water quality is maintained and enhanced to support ecosystems and associated coastal values.

4.2 A healthy coast and near-shore marine environment is preserved to sustain our valued coastal lifestyle and economy:

- a Coastal recreational, social and economic activities have minimal impact on coastal values and natural processes.
- b Coastal access is provided through formal access points.
- c Coastal cultural heritage values are preserved and appreciated.
- d Coastal vegetation is not damaged or removed except where required for approved coastal dependent development and the construction and maintenance of community recreational and access infrastructure.

4.3 Coastal hazard risks are known and avoided or otherwise adequately addressed, forming part of long-term adaptation planning:

- a New permanent development is located outside of the Coastal Erosion Prone Area unless it is deemed coastal dependent development / community infrastructure.
- b Coastal dependent development / community infrastructure is resilient to coastal hazards.
- c Impacts on coastal values and processes from coastal dependent development / community infrastructure are avoided or minimised and mitigated.
- d Coastal protection works are designed, managed and renewed to be fit for purpose and minimise risk for full asset life cycle.
- e Planning and development in the Coastal Hazard Area provide for resilient communities and infrastructure.
- f Disaster management planning for emerging and existing communities incorporates coastal hazard considerations.
- g Coastal hazards information is made available in a form that is easily understood.
- h Protection or management of private coastal assets is not the responsibility of council.

Refer to Part C for technical detail and planning directions specific to the Coastal theme.

