

Draft Coastal Management Plan



Prepared by: Coastal Planning, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

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Foreword

Coastal areas are key focal points for our Queensland lifestyle and economy. Locals and visitors alike love the coast, creating high demand for freely accessible public beaches, tidal waterways and foreshore reserves. This Coastal Management Plan describes how to effectively manage these areas to ensure enjoyment of the coast and grow a strong and prosperous Queensland.

The previous Queensland Coastal Plan was a two-part document, with a State Planning Policy component for planning and development assessment under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (SPA), and a component for general management and use of the coast. All of the State's land-use planning and development interests are now being integrated into a single state planning policy to simplify and clarify those interests to be reflected in local government planning schemes and development decisions.

This new approach means this coastal plan will no longer contain a separate state planning policy to address coastal matters related to planning and development decisions under the SPA. Instead, it will shape decisions about management activities and primarily managing coastal resources on public coastal land. Accordingly, the proposed amendments include renaming the plan as the Coastal Management Plan.

The draft amendments to the Coastal Management Plan reflect the Queensland Government's commitment to reduce regulatory burden for business and community and to empower local governments to make decisions about planning, managing and sustainably using coastal land.

The revised Coastal Management Plan will continue to provide important guiding policies about other matters, such as driving on beaches and the provision of public access and bigger coastal management challenges such as rapid population growth and rising sea levels.

The revised Coastal Management Plan is aimed primarily at local government, which is responsible for managing large areas of public coastal land and beaches and preserving the qualities and amenity that make many of these areas so precious.

State Government, traditional owners, national and state marine park managers, port authorities, and operators who manage specialist areas of the coast and tidal water, will also find the policies and supporting information useful in guiding management decisions about activities and resources in the coastal zone.

Andrew Powell MP

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

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Part 1—Introduction

Purpose

The Coastal Management Plan is prepared under the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* (Coastal Act) to describe how the coastal zone of Queensland is to be managed (see figure 1 – Coastal zone). This plan provides direction and guidance for activities that may affect Queensland's coastal resources to achieve the objects of the Coastal Act, which are to:

- provide for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and management of the coastal zone, including its resources and biological diversity
- have regard to the goal, core objectives and guiding principles of the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development in the use of the coastal zone
- ensure decisions about land use and development safeguard life and property from the threat of coastal hazards, and
- encourage the enhancement of knowledge of coastal resources and the effect of human activities on the coastal zone.

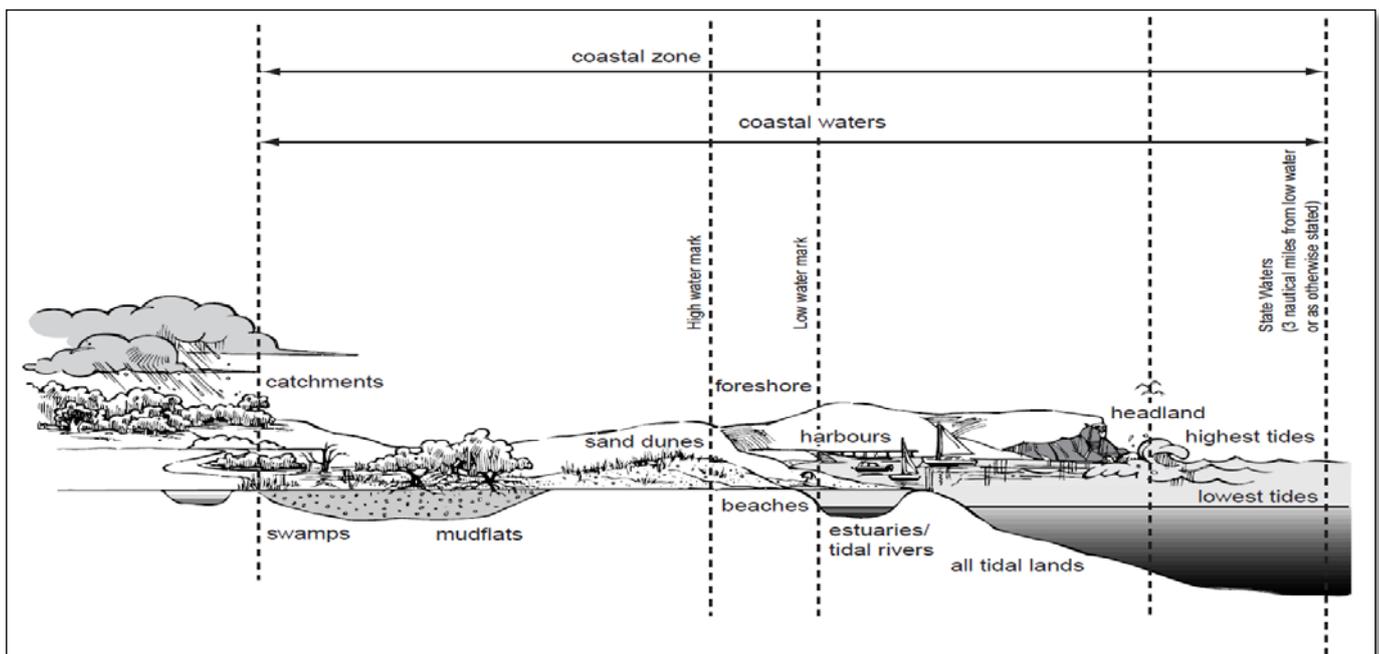


Figure 1: Coastal zone

Coastal resources consist of the natural and cultural resources of the coastal zone and include physical features, processes, places or objects that have ecological, economic or social value.

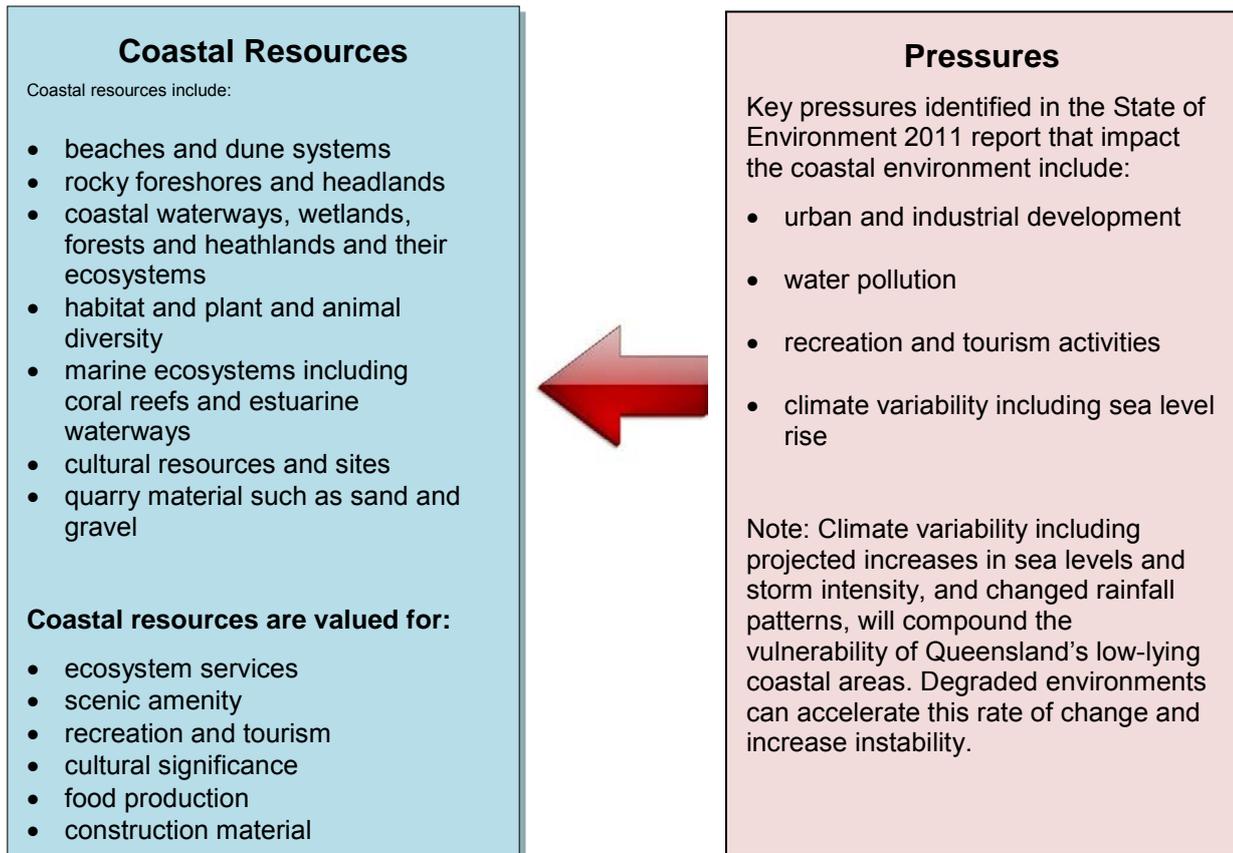
Queensland's coastal resources include Queensland's coastal waters, 1165 offshore islands and cays, and land along its 6900 km of coastline. They also include matters of state environmental significance (MSES) such as the conservation estate (national and marine parks and world and national heritage areas); listed threatened or migratory species; regional ecosystems or ecological communities; internationally significant or high value wetlands and waterways; roosting and nesting areas and areas set aside to satisfy an obligation to provide an environmental offset. MSES are more specifically defined in the glossary. Maps of areas where MSES are likely to be located are available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website at www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

Coastal resources have significant natural resource and ecosystem service values that support the state's economic and social prosperity (see Table 1: Coastal resources, values and pressures).

Coastal environments are constantly changing because of dynamic natural processes such as tides, waves and storms; creating a unique set of management challenges. However, it is the community's high demand to use coastal resources including land on the coast that puts the greatest pressure on coastal environments. This can result in coastal resources becoming degraded, or used for purposes contrary to the objects of the Coastal Act. The Coastal Management Plan is one of the tools used to address these pressures.

Pressures

Table 1: Coastal resources, values and pressures



Urban and industrial development

Urbanisation coupled with the concentration of business in city centres on or near the coast creates pressures (both directly and indirectly) on the environment. Together with an increase in industrial development, including port and marine infrastructure on the coast, this has resulted in habitat loss and fragmentation.

Continued population growth in Queensland has also increased the demand for quarry material including sand and gravel in urban centres. Quarry materials extracted from tidal water are commonly used for manufacturing concrete products and fill for railways, factories, hospitals, schools and homes. Extracting quarry material has the potential to trigger river bank erosion near the activity and coastal erosion away from the river mouth, due to reduced sediment supply. Other potential impacts include loss of vegetation, declining water quality (sediments and contaminants in any water leaving the site) and air quality (dust and diesel emissions), and increases in ambient noise levels.

Water pollution

Pollution entering coastal and marine waters from freshwater streams has had major impacts in some regions. For example, accelerated eutrophication has adverse consequences on marine ecosystems, while rural diffuse pollution, including from far inland, has resulted in the decline of coral biodiversity on the Great Barrier Reef. Reducing these discharges would improve the reef's resilience to other emerging pressures from ocean warming and acidification due to atmospheric carbon pollution.

Recreation and tourism activities

Tourism is an important sector for the Queensland economy and is heavily reliant on the state's natural attractions, particularly in the coastal zone. Increased recreational use of the coast can put pressure on the natural environment. Pressures related to tourism may include infrastructure, transport, accommodation, entertainment and access needs. The government, together with the tourism industry is responsible for managing large numbers of visitors to the coast, while maintaining the natural assets upon which the economy depends.

Climate variability including sea level rise

Sea-level rise and an increase in the intensity of tropical storms, coupled with storm surges that can inundate property, have been predicted as a consequence of climate variability. Impacts could include permanent inundation of land and increasing rates of sea erosion over time. Coastal ecosystems play an important role by increasing resilience of coastal environments to hazards. For example, mangrove forests can be effective in reducing the destructive forces of a storm tide for the land behind.

Responses to key pressures

Urban and industrial development is managed to protect coastal resources primarily through the planning and development framework established under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Planning Act). State requirements for planning and development assessment are identified in a State planning policy prepared under the Act. This policy includes specific outcomes about the management of development to address pressures on the coast and to protect people and property from coastal hazards such as coastal erosion (see figure 2 – Regulatory Framework). These will primarily be delivered through local government planning schemes. Further information about the State planning policy can be found on the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning website at www.dsdip.qld.gov.au.

The Coastal Act specifically provides that other relevant legislation should be used wherever practicable to achieve its objects. Decisions made under the Planning Act to manage development on the coast for example, play a key role in achieving sound coastal management outcomes.

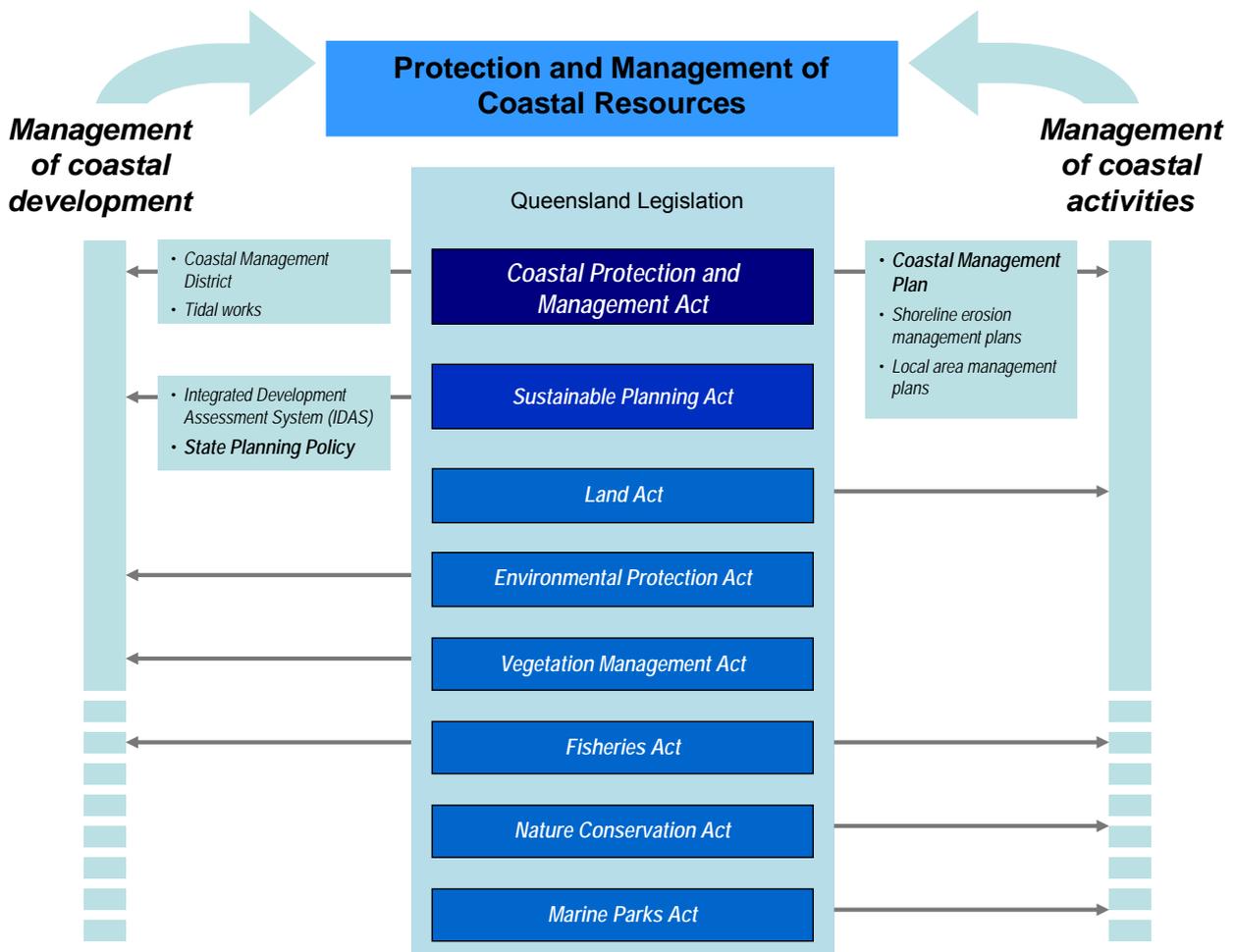


Figure 2: Regulatory framework for coastal protection and management

The Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009 and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan) both play a role in addressing water pollution in coastal areas. Potentially polluting industries are regulated through licensing waste outputs into waterways. The Reef Plan targets more diffuse pollution sources, bringing together people and projects to help improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

Monitoring programs are used to collect data about ecosystem health in rivers, estuaries and coastal areas throughout the eastern coast of Queensland to inform policy development and implementation.

The process for allocating quarry material on State coastal land for beneficial uses is regulated under the Coastal Act. Policies in this plan have been developed to provide best practice guidance for state allocation decisions, including quarry material and State coastal land.

Recreational activities such as beach driving are also addressed in the plan and policies include a range of measures that can be adopted to minimise any potential adverse impacts.

Pressures from sea level rise are addressed in the plan with reference to best practice policies for the allocation of land for appropriate uses, erosion control responses and placement of structures. Management planning, including the preparation of local shoreline erosion management plans is another tool referenced under this plan to provide for effective responses to potential impacts.

Application

The Coastal Management Plan applies to management planning, activities, resource allocation decisions and works that are not assessable development under the Planning Act. It applies where these activities affect State coastal land and other coastal resources within the coastal zone. State coastal land includes coastal roads and esplanades, reserves and unallocated State land including land under tidal water.

Activities regulated by other relevant legislation and associated plans are generally not also addressed by the Coastal Management Plan. However, the Coastal Management Plan does include policies to assist in guiding decisions being made under other legislation where this is considered necessary and beneficial for coastal management outcomes.

Implementation

The management policies in this plan are primarily intended to be implemented by the managers of state and local government-controlled coastal land, and owners of private coastal land. The Coastal Management Plan will also be important in guiding others, such as community groups, natural resource management bodies, research organisations, businesses, and individuals undertaking activities on coastal land.

Part 2—How coastal land is to be managed

1. Coastal landforms and physical coastal processes

Principle

- 1.1 Activities on the coast avoid interrupting the natural fluctuations of the coast (erosion and accretion).
- 1.2 Land stabilisation against wind and water erosion, and dune-building processes are maintained or enhanced by protecting, managing and rehabilitating native vegetation.
- 1.3 Dunes, mangroves and coastal wetlands that protect or buffer communities and infrastructure from coastal hazards are preserved, or where changes to these features cannot be avoided, risks to the community are mitigated.
- 1.4 Dune crest heights and sand volume in the active beach system are maintained for the protection of adjacent property, buildings and infrastructure against storm wave attack and wave over wash processes.
- 1.5 Longshore transport of sand or delivery of sediment to the coast is not disrupted unless:
 - it can be demonstrated that this does not adversely affect coastal processes, or
 - impacts are mitigated by works including sand bypassing or beach nourishment.
- 1.6 Beach nourishment of foreshores or removing or relocating structures is the preferred solution where coastal erosion threatens communities or infrastructure.
- 1.7 Where hard protection works such as seawalls prevent sediment participating in coastal processes, the reduction in sediment supply should, where feasible, be compensated for by beach nourishment to balance the loss.

- 1.8 Sand which is dredged or excavated from within an erosion-prone area, and is the property of the State or surplus to the requirements of the excavators, is to be retained within the erosion-prone area and placed on the dunes, beaches or other tidal areas at an approved sand disposal site.
- 1.9 Where there is an imminent threat to the community or infrastructure from coastal erosion, development of a shoreline erosion management plan is recommended to deliver a science-based solution to the erosion problem that considers social, environmental and economic issues.
- 1.10 The impacts of climate variability including a projected rise in sea level of 0.8m to 2100 and an increase in cyclone maximum potential intensity by 10 per cent are considered in managing the coast.

Policy context

The natural forces of sea and weather continually change the coast. Coastal processes transport sediment, resulting in ongoing erosion or accretion of land along the coast. These policies are to ensure coastal processes are maintained, including natural fluctuations of the shoreline and longshore sand movement critical to maintaining beaches and foreshore areas.

Ideally, coastal erosion threats should be managed by locating or relocating development away from vulnerable areas. Where this is not feasible, 'soft' protection works such as beach nourishment—importing additional sediment to the beach and dunes—create or reinstate these protective landforms.

Managing coastal processes with erosion control works such as seawalls, groynes and artificial reefs can adversely affect coastal processes by trapping or redirecting sediments moving along the coast. The consequence can be loss of the beach in front of seawalls, increased erosion at adjacent sites and loss of foreshore vegetation and habitat, with significant implications for the community.

In some circumstances, land within the erosion-prone area (such as clay soils and marine muds) may not be compatible with dune and beach processes, or it may comprise imported fill or contaminated material. In these circumstances engineered coastal protection works may be appropriate solutions.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's (EHP) preferred method for managing shoreline erosion is preparing and implementing a shoreline erosion management plan (SEMP). A SEMP is used to investigate the causes and expected future impacts of erosion and analyse management options and recommend a solution, considering social, economic and environmental issues. Further information about how to go about preparing a SEMP is available from the EHP website at www.ehp.qld.gov.au. SEMPs may form part of a broader management plan for coastal land, including adaptation measures to mitigate coastal hazard risks. Coastal hazards include coastal erosion, permanent inundation due to sea level rise, or temporary inundation due to storm tide.

Dunes

Human-induced changes to dune systems and degraded dune vegetation can significantly limit the protection provided to development from coastal hazards, worsen wind erosion problems and adversely impact on neighbouring landforms.

Vegetation is important to form and stabilise coastal sand dunes. Vegetation on the beach and dunes tends to occur in zones, according to the degree of exposure to harsh coastal conditions. Closest to the sea is the pioneer zone, extending landward from the debris line at the top of the beach in an area called the foredune or frontal dune.

Pioneer plants trap and hold windblown sand in the foredune and help create conditions that encourage other plant communities such as woodland, scrub, heath and forest to establish and grow. All plants, whether they are herbs, shrubs or trees, growing either singly or in groups, have a role in developing vegetative cover and together they help stabilise dunes.

Windblown sand, trapped in the foredune by vegetation, serves as a reservoir of sand for the beach during periods of wave erosion. In the absence of sand-trapping dune vegetation, windblown sand from the beach moves inland and is lost to the beach and dune system. Wind erosion of the beach and unvegetated foredunes causes coastline recession. The above-ground parts of dune plants act as obstructions, increase surface roughness and reduce the surface speed of sand-carrying wind. Reducing wind movement deposits sand on and around the plant. Sand spinifex grass (*Spinifex sericeus*) is the most successful sand trapping plant colonising dunes along most of the Queensland coastline, having the ability to grow through accumulations of windblown sand. Cycles of sand deposition and plant growth form and build dunes.

Rehabilitating a degraded dune system includes stabilising the surface against wind erosion and establishing endemic dune plants to provide long-term stability and reinstate sand trapping and dune building processes. Management actions may include enrichment planting to increase biodiversity and managing pest plants and animals. Pests compete with native plants and animals for habitat, food, light and nutrients. Sometimes, they out-compete the native plants and animals and reduce habitat quality, diversity and aesthetic and recreational value.

Pest management plans or strategies should be developed identifying priority actions for preventing and controlling invasive pests.

Dune vegetation is naturally exposed to harsh environmental conditions, including sand blast, salt spray and high wind velocities. This can make dunes vulnerable to even small additional pressures, including impacts such as pedestrian use, grazing stock and four wheel drive vehicles. To maintain dune stability against wind erosion, these pressures need to be managed by exclusion, or providing fenced and hardened access points for pedestrians, and increasing stock or plant vigour by periodic fertilising.

Management and rehabilitation efforts vary in cost, intensity, resource requirements, timeframes, and the suitability of techniques to particular sites and situations. Ongoing maintenance is required to ensure they are effective. It may be useful to develop maintenance checklists that note necessary approvals, insurance, standards and notifications to be checked and, as needed, rectified each time the site is visited.

2. Nature conservation

Principle

Significant impacts on matters of state environmental significance (MSES) are avoided or offset and other nature conservation values are conserved.

Policies

- 2.1 Areas containing MSES are, preferably, to be conserved by:
 - protecting sensitive natural ecosystems and habitat (particularly feeding, nesting and roosting sites) from threats such as clearing, degrading of vegetation, uncontrolled pedestrian or vehicle traffic, or pest plants and animals
 - rehabilitating or restoring natural environmental values of degraded areas
 - maintaining, enhancing or establishing habitat connectivity for species movement.
- 2.2 Where significant adverse impacts on MSES cannot be avoided, impacts are minimised and residual impacts are offset by additional management actions such as restoring adjacent habitat.

Policy context

MSES are defined in the glossary, and have a critical role in maintaining the biodiversity of coastal land and coastal resources. Matters of state environmental significance are drawn from matters protected by existing State environmental and natural resource legislation.

This policy seeks to protect MSES, including those identified on maps and additional areas identified by coastal land managers. Protection includes encouraging intensive public activities occur outside of identified areas. Pedestrian, tourist and marine activities are managed to avoid adverse effects on ecological values. Management actions may include, for example, seasonal and night closures of turtle nesting beaches and preventing artificial light pollution, or seasonal closures at times when migratory birds are present or other species are nesting.

The protection of a broader suite of environmental values will further contribute to maintaining healthy and resilient ecosystems and ensure sustainable, long-term conservation of biodiversity. In many cases, mapping is available to indicate the presence of other environmental values such as remnant vegetation or Koala rehabilitation areas.

Environmental values mapping, including property or area based reports can be obtained from the EHP website at www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

Protecting MSES through management of beach driving

Activities such as beach driving should be actively managed to prevent significant adverse impacts on coastal ecosystems, including beach and benthic plants and animals. Research indicates that compaction of sand by vehicles is destructive for sand-dwelling invertebrates. Vehicle traffic can also disturb feeding or roosting shorebirds and nesting turtles.

Prior to allowing beach driving, the relevant authority should have a qualified and experienced ecologist prepare a report identifying the relevant ecological and species values of the beach. The report should recommend how adverse impacts on these values by beach driving can be minimised.

Where allowing beach driving is necessary to provide access to foreshore or adjacent areas, conditions often employed to manage associated adverse impacts include using a permit system, speed limits, closure during the period two or more hours each side of high tide, night closures, temporary or permanent diversions on to inland tracks that avoid sensitive areas, and seasonal closures during nesting periods for sea turtles and times when migratory bird species are present.

Where vehicles are used on beaches, they should be driven below the high water mark away from dunes. Vehicles also should not be driven along debris or drift lines, as these often harbour wildlife.

Specific regulations or local laws, using signs and physical exclusion devices will help ensure compliance with conditions for vehicle use of beaches. A regular compliance presence will also be necessary.

Revenue raised through a beach driving permit system can be used to offset the costs of coastal protection and rehabilitation programs.

3. Indigenous cultural heritage

Principle

Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders are the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of their cultural heritage and their connection to coastal and marine resources should be maintained and enhanced.

Policies

- 3.1 Management plans and programs should engage traditional owners to enable access to coastal resources for cultural activities.
- 3.2 Changes to arrangements to allow access to cultural resources, including beach driving and access to facilities, should occur in consultation with relevant traditional owners to prevent any adverse impacts on cultural resources.

Policy context

Traditional owners have been managing their cultural resources for millennia as part of their cultural practices. Currently, a number of factors affect the ability of traditional owners to be involved in the ongoing management of their country. These factors include: land tenure, access rights, and financial capacity.

Incorporating Indigenous knowledge about land and sea management contributes significantly to achieving the objects of the Coastal Act.

Both the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (the cultural heritage acts) provide for effective recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. The cultural heritage acts recognise that traditional owner participation in activities involving the conservation and management of cultural heritage is important as this allows traditional owners to reaffirm their obligations to country.

The cultural heritage acts establish a duty of care that requires all land users to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure their activities do not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.

Consultation with the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander party for an area may be necessary if there is a high risk that the activity may harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.

The cultural heritage duty of care can be met by acting:

- in compliance with gazetted cultural heritage duty of care guidelines
- under an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) developed under Part 7 of the Acts
- under a native title agreement or another agreement with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander party, unless cultural heritage is not subject to the agreement.

In the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, traditional owners work in partnership with the Australian and Queensland governments to manage cultural activities in sea country through the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRA). A TUMRA implementation plan may also describe ways to educate the public about traditional connections to sea country, and to educate other members of a Traditional Owner group about the conditions of the TUMRA.

Indigenous land and sea rangers work in regional communities throughout Queensland to achieve environmental outcomes and raise awareness of the importance of looking after country, land and sea. Land and sea rangers are a great source of pride throughout Queensland's indigenous communities.

Many rangers are also Traditional Owners of the areas in which they work. Engaging with land and sea rangers is considered essential for sound coastal management outcomes.

4. Public access and enjoyment of the coast

Principle

Public access and use of the coast is maintained or enhanced for current and future generations.

Policies

- 4.1 Public access and use of the coast is maintained by avoiding the use of State coastal land for:
- creating exclusive private access to the foreshore
 - creating exclusive private use of beaches
 - locating erosion control structures to protect private property from coastal erosion.
- 4.2 Loss of public access to, or use of State coastal land, beaches or foreshores is acceptable where:
- the decision is necessary to satisfy an overriding need in the public interest consistent with the factors set out below, or
 - it is for a public benefit asset such as community infrastructure, and alternative or enhanced public access is available or can be provided in an adjacent area to offset the loss.
- 4.3 Undeveloped esplanades and road reserves vulnerable to coastal erosion are not constructed unless this is necessary to achieve coastal management outcomes or to provide the only lawful means of vehicular access.
- 4.4 The use of State coastal land for public beach access and associated facilities is encouraged if the facilities are located, designed, constructed and managed to conserve coastal resources and their values.
- 4.5.1 Beach driving is supported where:
- no practical alternative to access the coast exists or can be established
 - management ensures there are no significant adverse impacts to the stability of dunes, coastal ecosystems or species
 - it does not adversely affect public access to and enjoyment of beaches and foreshore areas by other users, including pedestrians.

Factors for determining overriding need in the public interest—applicable to policy 4.2 a)

The applicant for the authority or tenure must establish:

- that the overall social, economic and environmental benefits of granting the authority or tenure outweigh the conflict with the policy outcome
- the activity for which the authority or tenure is to be granted cannot be located elsewhere so as to avoid conflicting with the policy outcome.

The following do not establish an overriding need in the public interest:

- uses requiring relatively few location requirements to function; or
- an interest in or options over a site; or
- a site's availability.

Policy context

This policy intends to ensure there is no net loss of public access to the foreshore, coastal waters or State coastal land, and ensure that State coastal land continues to contribute to coastal management outcomes.

State and local government may face strong pressure from property owners to locate erosion control structures on State coastal land (including on esplanades and beaches) to protect private property. However, using public land for this purpose is generally considered inappropriate. Structures to protect private properties should be located on the private land. Only where it is demonstrated that this is not practicable and it is in the public interest, appropriate authority may be considered to provide for a structure on public land and granted to a public authority.

Without careful management some existing uses of State land, such as unapproved beach or fishing huts or jetties, could potentially influence future settlement patterns.

These structures are generally inappropriately sited within areas vulnerable to coastal hazards, sometimes potentially leading to significant long-term costs to the community if settlements were to subsequently develop. The *Land Act 1994* provides for administering of permits to occupy (if that is determined to be an acceptable tenure solution) that do not establish a permanent use right.

The preferred approach for existing access infrastructure such as roads and tracks is for continued maintenance and management. Where they become impassable from erosion or storm damage, and it is not feasible to reinstate their existing alignment, an alternative alignment consistent with the overall policy outcomes of the coastal management plan should be determined by the relevant management authority.

Establishing, managing and maintaining facilities, such as public access walkways and recreational facilities, can often help manage impacts on coastal resources and their values. Exclusion fencing or placement and design (or absence) of access infrastructure and designated walkways, boardwalks, signs and public amenities can manage impacts. This may ensure the long-term stability of dunes and other vulnerable coastal landforms, and prevent introduction of non-native plants and animals.

Beaches that are used for the driving or riding of motor vehicles (whether on payment of a fee or otherwise) are roads under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995* and all road rules apply. Allowing beach driving, where it is necessary to provide access to the foreshore or adjacent areas, should be actively managed to ensure public access and enjoyment is maintained.

Options employed to manage beach driving include: the use of a permit system, speed limits, closures during peak periods including seasonal closures, temporary or permanent diversions on to inland tracks that avoid popular beach areas, and prohibitions. An assessment of how the beach would preferably be used by vehicle owners and other users, including consultation with affected user groups, should guide these types of management decisions.

5. Allocating coastal resources— land and quarry materials

Principle

Allocating state coastal land or quarry materials avoids exposing vulnerable land uses to coastal hazards and maintains coastal processes while providing fair access to commercial opportunities and economic benefits for the State of Queensland.

Policies

- 5.1 Tenure decisions or decisions to grant a permit or licence to allow the use of state coastal land, including the use of a road under a local law, ensure:
 - new or continuing land uses only occur in coastal hazard areas if the use is compatible with the hazard risks, or is dependent on access to tidal water
 - the use of land is subject to the provision of an environmental offset for any residual adverse impact on a matter of state environmental significance that cannot be avoided as a result of undertaking the use
 - physical coastal processes continue uninterrupted on the land and areas outside the area subject to the use.
- 5.2 Allocating quarry material from State coastal land below tidal water supports sustainable use of the resource in that it does not:
 - disrupt physical coastal processes
 - adversely impact on beach amenity
 - increase the risk to communities from coastal erosion
 - cause accelerated erosion of riverbanks where this impacts on current use rights of the land or MSES areas.
- 5.3 Where there is local competition to source limited quarry material supplies from State coastal land below tidal water, it is preferable that an auction or tender process be used to support any decision to allocate the material.
- 5.4 An allocation of quarry material granted via an auction or tender process is to generate an equivalent or better economic outcome for the State than an alternative allocation process. That is, the price for the quarry material secured through the auction or tender must be at least the same as that based on the rate of royalty for quarry material prescribed under a relevant regulation at the time.

Policy context

The Land Act provides for the allocation of tenure by the State to allow use of State land. Before State land may be allocated a particular tenure, the land and its proposed use are evaluated to assess the land's suitability to the use. For example, leases are granted for a specific purpose or use including business, grazing, tourism, residential development, or agriculture and pastoral activities.

Other authorities, such as a local government applying a local law, may also permit uses for certain State land. For example, to permit the use of part of a road to establish a stall for selling goods or services such as ice-creams for beach goers.

For State coastal land, whether allowing a proposed use compromises the ability to achieve sound coastal management outcomes is a prime consideration.

Coastal hazard areas are a reference to those areas that are considered vulnerable to coastal erosion and storm tide inundation including in consideration of projected changes in sea level. Maps that show erosion-prone areas including land projected to be at risk from permanent inundation due to sea level rise, and storm tide inundation areas can be found at www.ehp.qld.gov.au. Note a local government may have more accurate maps for its local areas.

Further information about coastal hazards and the identification of areas that may be vulnerable to the risk of adverse coastal hazard impacts can also be found on the EHP website at www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

The Coastal Act provides criteria for deciding applications for allocating quarry material that is on State coastal land (including land under tidal water) for use by an individual or organisation. Using an auction or tender process to allocate material to interested parties is considered the most efficient and effective way to ensure fair and equitable access to limited quarry material supplies.

Access to quarry material should be limited where the impact of removing the material on local coastal processes and landforms is unknown or is likely to result in increased coastal erosion in other areas. Note that quarry material being removed from trust land, leasehold land, or tidal land held under a licence issued by the State, the allocation of quarry material is regulated by the *Forestry Act 1959*.

6. Management planning

Principle

Managing and using coastal land is planned, monitored, reported on and reviewed to achieve continuous improvement in management outcomes.

Policies

- 6.1 State coastal land managers are encouraged to prepare and implement local plans, where appropriate, to guide activities consistent with the policies of this Coastal Management Plan.
- 6.2 The community, traditional owners, government land owners, relevant interest groups including natural resource management bodies, and other stakeholders such as local business owners, should be consulted when preparing local plans.
- 6.3 Local management plans should, preferably, incorporate a framework for assessing the effectiveness of management practices and decisions over time by:
 - establishing resource extent and condition and measurable performance indicators
 - committing to an associated monitoring, reporting and review program.

Policy context

The type, structure, content and implementation mechanisms identified in a management plan are at the discretion of the state coastal land manager and should be tailored to suit the purpose for which the land is used and any special management considerations.

A sample management plan template for coastal areas is included in Appendix 1. However, there is no need to prepare a separate coastal management plan if the management strategies can be effectively incorporated into a broader management plan for the area.

EHP can provide support and guidance about the coastal management components of a local plan.

The Land Act 1994 makes provision for trustees to prepare and submit a land management plan for trust land they manage.

A trustee may be requested to prepare a land management plan for the primary use and is generally required to prepare a land management plan for trust land subject to secondary uses (refer to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines' Policy Secondary Use of Trust Land PUX/901/209).

To avoid duplication a management plan could be tailored to include coastal management plan considerations and address requirements under the Land Act 1994.

The Land Management Planning for Reserves or Deeds of Grant in Trust–Information Kit will help prepare these plans. It is available from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website at www.dnrm.qld.gov.au.

7. Knowledge sharing and community engagement

Principle

Knowledge of coastal resources and their management is shared with the community and the community is engaged in decision-making processes and activities that affect them.

Policies

- 7.1 Coastal land managers actively engage the community and share knowledge of coastal management issues, planning and activities through:
- providing opportunities for direct consultation with the community and special interest groups about management proposals and decisions
 - encouraging and facilitating the sharing and use of knowledge, including traditional Indigenous knowledge of country, to promote awareness and understanding of coastal issues and environmentally responsible behaviours (stewardship) in the community
 - encouraging and facilitating the active participation of the community including special interest groups in managing their coastal areas where appropriate
 - facilitating participation, collaboration and integration within, and between, programs and community networks.

Policy context

Awareness and understanding of coastal issues can be encouraged within communities through community-based social marketing strategies and providing education and awareness programs and information.

Effective coastal management must involve all stakeholders and members of the public. Effective collaboration and partnerships are more likely to improve coastal management outcomes because they combine resources to help reduce costs, recognise diversity in approaches, and coordinate management activities.

Regional natural resource management bodies, community groups and individuals currently commit funding, time, and effort to prepare strategies, such as integrated catchment management plans and natural resource management strategies. They also contribute to on-the-ground works and activities, such as rehabilitation projects that help manage coastal areas. This contribution can be supported by sourcing funding and knowledge from local, state and federal government, and industry programs. An integrated approach that uses indigenous knowledge and contemporary science together may further improve outcomes for community-based initiatives.

8. Review of the Coastal Management Plan

Principle

The Coastal Management Plan is subject to regular review based on the state of the coastal zone.

Review of the policy

- 8.1 A report will be provided on the state of the coast zone at least every four years as part of Queensland's comprehensive report on the state of its environment. It will include an assessment of the condition of coastal resources and the effectiveness of coastal management strategies, programs and activities. An assessment of this plan will be included.

Policy context

The Coastal Act stipulates that a coastal plan only has effect for 10 years, after which time it must be replaced. It also requires that a report describing the state of the coastal zone, prepared and published at least every four years, and be used, in part, to review the success of the coastal plan in achieving the objects of the Coastal Act.

Glossary

Coastal hazard as defined in the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*

Coastal resources as defined in the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*

Matters of State environmental significance include:

- Protected areas (all classes except for nature refuges and coordinated conservation areas)—*Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA)
- High value wetlands—Environment Protection Regulations 2008
- Marine Parks (Marine National Park, Marine Conservation Park, Scientific Research, Preservation and Buffer zones)—*Marine Parks Act 2004*
- Threatened species (listed as 'endangered' or 'vulnerable')—NCA
- Fish Habitat Areas (A and B) and Dugong Protection Areas—*Fisheries Act 1994*
- Regulated vegetation—regional ecosystems (classified as 'of concern', 'endangered', 'high value regrowth', 'wetlands', watercourse or GBR riverine corridor)—*Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA)
- Threatened species habitat (vulnerable or endangered)—NCA and VMA
- Wild River high preservation zones—*Wild Rivers Act 2005*
- High conservation value wetlands—*Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- Legally secured offset areas—protected by a registered covenant, easement, agreement or a development approval condition.

Quarry material as defined in the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*

State coastal land as defined in the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*

Appendix 1

Sample management plan template for coastal areas

Note: For guidance only. Different styles and content may suit different scenarios.

Introduction

Requirement for a land management plan

Process

Working group

Consultation

Use of this plan

Implementation.

Background

Legislative and policy setting

Land management plan area (map)

Objectives of the land management plan.

Critical management considerations (may) include:

Population growth

Visitor growth

Foreshore stability considering variable sea levels

Vegetation management

Commercial use and leased areas

Unmanaged foreshore and reserve access

Management resources for implementing the plan

Monitoring and evaluating the plan.

Desired outcomes and actions

Area 1: xxxx

Preamble

Land tenure

Historical changes

Vegetation description.

Coastal management issues and actions (may) include:

1. Pedestrian access
2. Passive recreation
3. Vehicular use of beaches, trail bikes, horse riding
4. Camping and occupation
5. Fire management
6. Vegetation management
7. Management of other coastal resources
8. Management of coastal erosion and shoreline retreat (refer to EHP's shoreline erosion management plan)
9. Restoration of degraded dune systems
10. Pest, including weed control
11. Water quality.

Glossary and abbreviations

References

Appendices

Maps

Background information

Practice guidelines

Foreshore proclamation

Bathing reserve

Recreation area.