Shaping coastal connections

Directions and options for access to beaches and foreshores across Redlands Coast

August 2026





Definition of foreshore

Foreshore means the intertidal area of the coastline between the highest astronomical tide (HAT) and the lowest astronomical tide (LAT) within Redland City's local government area (LGA).

For this paper, foreshore access means the facilities, infrastructure and places that help people reach, move along, or connect with the foreshore and tidal waters.

Purpose of this community engagement

This community engagement seeks feedback to help inform the future development of the Foreshore Access Strategy (the Strategy or FAS). The future Strategy will guide safe, inclusive and environmentally responsible access to Redlands Coast foreshores. This directions paper is intended to help the community understand Council's objectives, identify priorities, and test initial levels of service before the draft Strategy is prepared.

Scope of this directions paper

Council manages most foreshore lands across Redlands Coast, including the majority of foreshore areas on the mainland and islands. Only Council-managed foreshore areas are included in the scope of this directions paper.



Some foreshore areas are subject to tenure, native title, cultural heritage or State management arrangements, such as parts of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke

Island). Areas that are not Council-managed are outside the direct scope of this paper unless separately agreed with the relevant land manager.



What is outside the scope

Any future project would still require detailed design, approvals and checks relating to coastal hazards, environment and heritage. The following are outside the scope of this directions paper and future Strategy:

- Foreshore areas and access works on land not managed by Council.
- Beach engineering works that sit outside access improvements.
- Approving or funding individual works or projects is outside the scope of this directions paper.
- Constructed boat ramps for powered recreational watercraft are not considered in this paper. Any upgrades, renewals, or new installations for these facilities are principally matters for Marine Safety Queensland (MSQ) and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), rather than Council.

What this consultation will help shape

This consultation will help Council understand community expectations and inform the future Strategy by helping to:

- Identify existing and potential new priority foreshore sites, access points and opportunities.
- Set appropriate levels of service.
- Develop an equitable, consistent, and fit-for-purpose basis for upgrading existing and providing new foreshore facilities.
- Inform future budget priorities and grant applications.

How this consultation fits in

The Strategy will be informed by two main consultation stages. This directions paper commences the first stage which will inform the preparation of the preliminary draft Strategy. A second round of consultation is planned on the draft Strategy before it is finalised and presented to Councillors for review and potential Council approval and adoption.

Why do we need the Strategy?

Redland City had an estimated resident population of 172,831 people as at 30 June 2025, and further growth is expected over time. Coastal erosion, inundation and sea level rise, together with the need to maintain and renew foreshore access infrastructure, require a fit-for-purpose, transparent, and consistent framework to guide future foreshore-related decisions.

Council audits and site inspections have identified that some foreshore access structures are ageing, not fit for purpose, or nearing the end of their useful life. Earlier Council survey feedback indicated residents viewed access to foreshores, safety, parks and amenities, and the extent and maintenance of foreshore facilities relatively positively overall. The feedback also pointed to areas for improvement, including fish cleaning facilities and the usability of swimming enclosures.

The Strategy and future foreshore access works will be informed by the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS), including climatic considerations of coastal erosion, inundation, and sea level rise. In some locations, this may mean adapting, relocating or avoiding permanent infrastructure where protecting a foreshore area, asset, and facility is no longer feasible or justified.



Tell us what type of foreshore access is needed, and where

Council wants to understand what type of foreshore access is needed, where it is needed, and what level of service is appropriate in different places. Examples of the types of foreshore access and supporting infrastructure that may be considered include:

- Pedestrian access points such as paths, ramps, stairs and boardwalks.
- All-abilities access points and equipment, such as beach matting and beach wheelchairs.
- Non-powered watercraft access points, such as kayak or canoe launch points.
- Jetties, pontoons and swimming enclosures.
- Fishing access and related facilities.
- Supporting access features, such as signage, water points, wash-off showers, bollards and barriers.

This consultation, in conjunction with this paper, is intended to help the community tell Council what type of foreshore access is appropriate in different places, where the main gaps are, and where improvements are most needed.

How the Strategy will be prepared

The first round of community consultation will inform the preparation of the preliminary draft Strategy. That draft will then be refined through Council's internal review, resulting in a revised draft Strategy.

A second round of community consultation will inform the final draft Strategy, which will then be presented to Councillors for potential approval and adoption. Any subsequent projects would proceed to implementation planning, design, approvals, funding and delivery.



Delivering access to our foreshores

Our objectives

- Provide a sustainable long-term strategy that balances foreshore access with protection of cultural and environmental values.
- Consider safety, equity and accessibility requirements.
- Provide a management framework to assist with planning the ongoing maintenance and renewal of access points.
- Inform future improvements to foreshore access across Redlands Coast.
- Inform decisions, including the possible closure or rationalisation of unsafe or unsustainable foreshore access points.

Council recognises that some existing access structures may be informal or unauthorised and may need to be reviewed, rationalised or removed where they are unsafe, unsustainable, or inconsistent with environmental or land management requirements.

Our guiding principles

Environmental sustainability

Foreshore access should be developed in harmony with the natural environment, supporting long-term ecological health. This includes:

- Minimising disturbance to sensitive habitats and coastal ecosystems.
- Using sustainable materials and construction methods.
- Incorporating climate resilience into design and infrastructure.
- Recognising and respecting Indigenous cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.
- Engaging with Traditional Owners and custodians in planning and implementation.
- Protecting historical and cultural sites appropriately.

Equity and accessibility

Access to the foreshore should be inclusive and equitable, enabling people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to enjoy the space. This includes:

- Designing pathways and facilities that meet universal access standards where suitable.
- Removing barriers to access.
- Prioritising access for communities with limited recreational opportunities.

Management and maintenance

Management and maintenance should balance environmental, social and economic values. This includes:

- Developing a cohesive strategy to guide the management of foreshore access, balancing environmental, social, and economic values.
- Ensuring that all assets are recorded in Council's Asset Management System.
- Implementing criteria for rationalising access points to reduce environmental impact.
- Reviewing the Strategy at least every 5 years to align with changing coastal conditions and community needs.



Community benefit

Foreshore access improvements should enhance social, recreational, and economic value for the community. This includes:

- Creating safe, attractive, and welcoming public spaces.
- Supporting local tourism and business opportunities.
- Encouraging active lifestyles and community connection.
- Transparent and inclusive decision-making.
- Alignment with broader coastal management and land use plans.

Relevant public strategies and plans

The Strategy should align with Council strategies and plans that relate to coastal access, infrastructure, and connectivity. Key publicly accessible documents include:

Our Future Redland City: Corporate Plan 2026–2031

Redland Open Space Strategy

Redlands Coast Destination Management Plan 2023–2028

Coastal Adaptation Strategy

Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy

Redlands Coast Bay and Creeks Plan 2021–2031

Redland City Plan

Redlands Coast Transport Strategy

Glossary

CAS: Coastal Adaptation Strategy

CHAS: Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy

Council: Redland City Council

FAS: Foreshore Access Strategy

HAT: Highest astronomical tide

ICA: Island catchment area

LAT: Lowest astronomical tide

LOS: Levels of Service

LGA: Local government area

MSQ: Marine Safety Queensland

QGSO: Queensland Government Statistician's Office

QYAC: Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation

SCA: Suburb catchment area

TMR: Department of Transport and Main Roads