

Summary Report – Amity Point SEMP Open House

Summary

Redland City Council's Community Engagement team in collaboration with Water Technology prepared an Open House event for the Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan. The Open House event took place on Saturday 23 April, 2016 at the Amity Point Community Hall. The aim of the Open House was to encourage the community to share their local knowledge of Amity Point and to learn/find out about the SEMP process and what it means for the township.

The Open House event was set up with a series of history and science rich display panels, and video presentations which illustrated:

- The aim of the projects and processes to produce a SEMP
- The history of Amity Point and experience with erosion
- Previous methods to manage and limit the extent of erosion
- Video footage of a 'Retrogressive Breach Failure' which is a commonly observed erosion feature at Amity Point
- A video presentation showing the changes that have occurred in the channel over a 26 year period, as captured by Google Earth
- Printed images of the recently completed hydrographic survey of a portion of the Amity Point foreshore and rock fill along Rainbow Channel.

The Open House also utilised a number of 'activities' which encouraged participants to consider the risks, values and possible management options in a holistic sense. The Open House was promoted through letterbox distribution of an invitation to all Amity point residents, posters which were put on display at key locations across North Stradbroke Island – ferry terminals, businesses, etc, and through direct contact with the Reference Group who leveraged their local networks to promote the event.

The community's response to the Open House was unanimously positive.

Key Open House Statistics

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Approximate number of attendees: | ~100 |
| • Approximate average attendee stay (duration): | 45m-1hr |
| • Total number of engagement activity responses: | Count (sign-in sheet), comments & post-its (Engagement activities) |
| • Event duration: | 15 hours over 3 days |
| • Number of project team members present: | 7 |

Background

The Open House event was initiated due to the progress of the Amity Point SEMP reaching a key milestone where it was necessary to engage the wider community on the project. Consultation with the community has been identified as a critical component of this project is complimented by the establishment of the Amity Point SEMP Community Reference Group (Reference Group). The Reference Group consists of local community members and groups who expressed an interest in the project and nominated to become a member.

The Event

Installation of the display panels for the open house event occurred on Thursday 21 April, allowing interested community members to drop-in prior to Saturday. The date for the open house was decided because of the high visitor numbers to North Stradbroke Island for holidays and long weekends, it was considered that with a high increase in population there was a likelihood that the event may experience additional interest from holiday renters or owners of holiday houses who do not live in the township permanently. The event was manned on Thursday, following installation (12pm-3pm), by a member of the Community Engagement Team and on Friday the event was left un-manned (9am – 3pm). The purpose of having an unmanned day during the consultation process was to encourage community members to visit the display and take note of the presented information in their own time without feeling ‘pressured’ into making comments.

Promotional material for the Open House was prepared and consisted of a letter to the Amity Point residents (Appendix 1) and posters (Appendix 2) were also created and installed at key locations across North Stradbroke Island – ferry terminals, notice boards and businesses – including Amity Point Community Club, the rangers office at the Camping ground, Seashells café, the library, Rufus King and the Little Ships Club at One Mile.

The Saturday Open House Event, from 9am – 3pm, was manned by members of the Council’s Community Engagement Team and the SEMP Project team consisting of Council officers and Water Technology consultants. It was encouraging to see the number of local community members who visited the event on the day and were actively engaged and interested in the project. Furthermore, it is noted that the participants comprised many local community members who are not part of the SEMP Community Reference Group. This indicates that the role of the Reference Group to engage and disseminate information to the wider community has been successful and that the local community is interested in the Amity Point foreshore.

While it was anticipated that the local community’s interest in foreshore management would be reflected in high levels of attendance, it was also noted that as a result of other community events taking place on the same day it was possible the number of attendees could have been higher. In total it is estimated that there was approximately one-hundred (100) community members who attended the Open House throughout the whole event.

An agreement has been made between Council’s Community Engagement Team and the Dunwich Museum whereby panels from the open house event would be transferred to the Dunwich Museum for a static display. The panels to be displayed at the museum were to be identified by the

Museum's curators and will be held at the museum for an undisclosed period of time at which point will be returned to Council offices for storage, until needed again.

Display Panels

In total there were 11 full colour display panels installed throughout the Amity Point Community Hall outlining the SEMP process and history of Amity Point foreshore. The display panels were set out in the following order throughout the hall - refer to Appendix 3 for a copy of the display panels:

1. Welcome to the Open House
 - a. What is it about?
 - b. Aims of the Open House
2. What is a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan?
 - a. How do you create a SEMP?
 - b. Key Milestones
3. Story of Rainbow Channel
 - a. Illustration of the realignment of South Passage
4. A snapshot of the European history of Amity Point
5. Why do flow side occur? (*pictorial of the observed erosion process*)
6. The story of the rock fill?
7. Why are we doing a SEMP?
8. Possible erosion mitigation strategy options
 - a. Soft (or non-structural) solutions
 - b. Hard (or structural) solutions
9. How does the SEMP fit in with other Council plans?
10. Hydrographic Survey – detailing the bathymetry of the rock fill and a portion of Rainbow channel
11. Hydrographic Survey– detailing the bathymetry of the rock fill and a portion of Rainbow channel

Activities

The activities at the Open House consisted of installing blank pieces of paper, essentially large post-it notes, with a leading question on the top of the page. The aim of this exercise is to encourage participants to consider the values and risks associated with the entire Amity Point foreshore. The benefit of this exercise is that requires participants to consider the holistic nature of management planning. The comments also reflect the breadth and depth of local knowledge and understanding about issues impacting on the foreshore.

What Changes have you seen?

- To date there has been too little help and so erosion continues
- The water table has lowered over last 10-15 years and does this affect hydrostatic pressure – and so impact on erosion?
- Middle sand bar has grown towards Amity Point by 300m+ - narrowing of main channel and increases to water flow rate (tide)

- There is a new channel forming to southern side of sand island parallel to top end of Rous Channel (about 5m)
- The deep water of channel is now much closer to the rock wall
- Oyster leases at Dialba Passage have increased in height, new sand levels by approximately 500mm.
- Middle Bank at 'Welsby Light' is much higher just below the low water mark.
- Draining of swamps at right angles to existing swamp. Water drains to Wallum Creek
- Need to protect \$1M boat ramp that is used by tourist and commercial/professional fisherman
- The basin used to be a suitable for a large boat mooring area
- Very few changes in most areas as the rock fill seem to be holding along the Central Precinct

What mitigation area best suited to which precinct – why?

- Homes need to be protected
 - When will it start + who will pay?
- Channel diversion
 - Sink a big ship for divers, tourism, break flow current
 - NB: Beware of unintended consequences
- Look overseas → reefs, substitutes
 - Remember the load of coral put south side of the current jetty. This was to solve erosion but all the coral went out to sea on the first few high tides.
- Harness the channel energy → turbines to generate electricity to power our homes free of charge
- The owners on shoreline are responsible for paying for the rock which protects all of Amity. This does not seem fair.
- Attention to swamp outlet from Birch St to Tennis courts – erosion happening and backs up to swamp behind Gonzales St
- Fed up with “stop gap” measures
- Hard structural wall needed
- Need to stop four-wheel drive (4x4) traffic on the foreshore from Main beach to Amity Beach. Used to be signed (no longer) barrier. Traffic damages beach structure
- Central and southern precinct extend existing hard bottom in channel, maybe pylons at front of houses which could be backfilled
- The coast line in front of camping ground is vulnerable to erosion – will the rock wall be extended? Is there another solution?

Interactive mapping exercise

An interactive mapping exercise was undertaken at the event which was a printed map of Amity Point, separated into three precincts. The Northern Precinct consisted of Amity Beach and foreshore area; the Central Precinct was predominantly the rock fill section; and, the Southern Precinct being the boat ramp and beach south including the caravan park (refer to appendix 4). To engage the participants at the Open House event a separate map was printed which included a question – seeking the views of participants. In total there were seven (7) questions which sought to engage the participants at the Open House event, being:

1. What near-shore areas of Amity Point are important to local and regional marine biodiversity?
2. What changes have you seen and where?
3. What infrastructure such as roads, water, sewerage is important to the community?
4. Are there specific locations at Amity Point that are important to European heritage?
5. Are there any specific locations at Amity Point with important environmental values?
6. Are there specific locations at Amity Point that are important to Aboriginal heritage?
7. What are the implications of erosion threat to the community?

The outcome of this engagement activity was mixed with a number of comments attached to particular questions providing additional insight to the attributes and aspects of Amity Point which the community value. However, it is noted that some of the comments provided to particular maps did not match the question being asked. This indicates that the Open House project team should have placed a greater emphasis and guidance to ensure the participants was better informed and able to complete the activity.

Conclusion

The Amity Point SEMP Open House should be considered a successful engagement event based on the number of participants who attended, comments and general feedback received. The material from the open house, in particular the comments from the 'activities' will be used to help inform the development of the SEMP. These materials will also be attached as extrinsic material in the final SEMP document. The key lessons learnt from the event was the wider interest of the SEMP project from members of the Amity Point community who are not part of the SEMP Reference Group as well as members from the other townships at Point Lookout and Dunwich. The event also reaffirmed the enthusiasm of the Amity Point community in being involved in strategic planning projects within their township and importance of engaging the community during the development of a project.

APPENDIX 1 – Letter to Residents

12 April 2016

Dear Amity Point Resident

As you know, the Amity Point foreshore is constantly changing

Through talking to Amity Point and North Stradbroke Island residents and consultants, including specialised coastal engineers from Water Technology, Council has learnt a great deal about how, when and why these changes occur.

Council invites you to the Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) Open House, to:

- share this local knowledge, history and science (including a survey of the channel)
- find out if there is anything else relevant that you know, and
- find out what you and other members of the local community value most about Amity Point.

At the Open House you will be able to talk to the Amity Point SEMP project team, including a Council Planner, and Water Technology's consulting coastal engineer.

Amity Point SEMP Open House details

When: Saturday 23 April from 9am–3pm

Where: Amity Point Community Hall, 16 Ballow Road

Should you be unable to make the Open House on Saturday, you can view the unstaffed display at the Amity Point Community Hall on Thursday 21 April between 12pm–3pm, or Friday 22 April between 9am–3pm, or following the event at Dunwich Museum.

For further information, contact Bernard Houston at Redland City Council on 07 3829 8999, or email rcc@redland.qld.gov.au

Amity Point SEMP Project Team

APPENDIX 2 - Poster

Open House

Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

Amity Point foreshore is constantly changing

Council invites you to the
Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) Open House,
at which you can talk to the Amity Point SEMP project team, including a Council
Planner and a specialised coastal engineer from Water Technology.

See what locals have said

Discover the history **Learn the science**

And share what you know about Amity Point

Amity Point SEMP Open House details
When: Saturday 23 April from 9am-3pm
Where: Amity Point Community Hall
16 Ballow Road

Should you be unable to make the Open House on Saturday, you can view the unstaffed
display at the Amity Point Community Hall on Thursday 21 April from midday-3pm, or
Friday 22 April from 9am-3pm, or following the event at Dunwich Museum.

Visit yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au
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CITY COUNCIL

10304 1/2 2015

APPENDIX 3 – Display Panels

Welcome to the
Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan
Open House

What is it about?

The Amity Point foreshore has changed significantly over time.

Through talking to long-term Amity Point and North Stradbroke Island residents and consultants, including specialised coastal engineers from Water Technology, Council has learnt a great deal about how, when, and why these changes occur.

The aims of the Open House are to:

- share this local knowledge, history and science with the local community,
- find out if there is anything else relevant that you know, and
- find out what you and other members of the local community value most about Amity Point.

Get involved

Talk to a member of the Amity Point SEMP project team today

Add your thoughts concerning what you value most at Amity Point

"...the social fabric of the North Stradbroke Island community is heavily made up of three main homelands, viz. Dunaich, Amity Point and Point Lookout. Thus Amity Point is just as vital a part of the 'whole of island' North Stradbroke Island community as any individual, who is an integral part of the whole family.

At this point in time this family member - Amity Point is facing a clear and present threat to its very existence, i.e. severe coastal erosion. Thus there is a moral and social imperative for the rest of the North Stradbroke Island community to stand by a 'family' member in its time of need. Just as we would support each other when facing a bushfire or cyclone..."

Pam Wilson
Point Lookout

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What is a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan?

A Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) provides a framework for the sustainable use, development and management of land vulnerable to erosion by considering the environmental, social and economic values of the land and the physical coastal processes acting on the foreshore.

A SEMP also outlines the appropriate uses of erosion prone land, and long-term management goals as agreed upon by governments and the community.

How do you create a SEMP?



Key milestones

December 2013
Draft Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan is released

February 2014
First community meeting on a shoreline erosion management plan

March 2015
Convene Reference Group

November 2015
Consultants appointed

April 2016
Where we are now

Next steps

Consider feedback

Public engagement on options

Present Draft SEMP

Adoption and implementation

Visit yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au
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Story of the Rainbow Channel

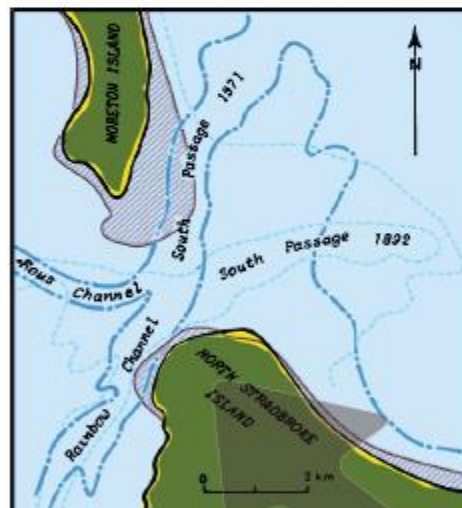
Comparison of the 1892 Admiralty Chart of the South Passage with current maps, shows re-alignment of the passage to a North-South orientation.

This change has seen the Rainbow Channel migrate East towards the shore at Amity Point.

This has introduced erosion.

Available survey records, aerial photographs, and recent research document this change.

Re-alignment of the South Passage



Source: 1892 Admiralty Chart
1892 Admiralty Chart
1892 Admiralty Chart
1892 Admiralty Chart
1892 Admiralty Chart
1892 Admiralty Chart

Source: Queensland Topographic Series
1:250,000 (1982) (Shoreline and boundary lines)
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A snapshot of the European history of Amity Point



1823 – Pilot Station
Watercolour by Owen Stanley



1890 – Amity Fishing Village



1891 – Crouch's Fishing Amity



1910 – Amity Point Jetty



1920 – Amity Point Jetty



1926 – Amity Races



1938 – Wooley's Kiosk



1947 – Amity Tavern Washes In



1950 – Amity Boat Rump



1993 – The 93 Flow Slide

Thank you to the North Stradbroke Island Aboriginal Museum
for assistance in providing some of these photos.

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Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

Why do flow slides occur?



Strong tidal flows in Rainbow Channel.



Cause "scarping" or progressive collapse of channel sides.

Can rocks help?



Rocks sometimes may help prevent collapse of channel sides.



Strong tidal flows collapse deeper channel sides and the rocks above are undermined.



The rocks tumble into the undermined channel areas.



Rocks are "topped-up" to try and limit further collapse of channel sides.

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Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

Why are we doing a SEMP?

- To assess the severity of shoreline erosion and the subsequent risks posed to the community and development in the area.
- To investigate the underlying causes of shoreline erosion in the area.
- To determine that what has been done to date isn't disrupting natural processes or increasing erosion risk to other areas.
- To determine an integrated approach to shoreline management in the area, including areas to the North and South of the existing rock fill.
- To determine cost-effective and sustainable erosion management strategies that maintain natural coastal processes and consider community needs.
- To rank those management strategy options in terms of environmental, social and economic costs.
- To determine shoreline erosion management strategies to preserve:
 - Areas of high conservation, social or ecological value,
 - Existing development or infrastructure such as roads, and
 - Foreshore access and recreational amenity
- To engage with the wider community about coastal processes and available erosion management options.

Amity Point is identified by the State as an Erosion Prone Area under the *Coastal Protection Management Act of 1995*.

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Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

Possible erosion mitigation strategy options

In essence, erosion mitigation options can be considered as 'soft' non-structural solutions, or 'hard' structural solutions.

Soft (or non-structural) solutions would typically include:

- Do nothing - allowing coastal processes to take their natural course while accepting the resulting losses.
- Avoiding development - by implementing regulatory controls with regard to building in undeveloped areas.
- Planned retreat - removing the erosion threat by relocating existing development away from the vulnerable area.
- Beach nourishment - rehabilitate eroding foreshores by direct placement of sand onto the beach, thereby providing an adequate erosion buffer.
- Beach scraping - by using earthmoving plant and equipment to mechanically relocate sand from the inter-tidal zone or nearshore sandbanks into the upper beach or dune, thereby improving erosion buffers on the beach.
- Channel relocation - relocate dynamic tidal channels that may be contributing to shoreline erosion so that they have a lesser impact.

Hard (or structural) solutions to mitigate the threat of erosion could include:

- Structural walls - which act as physical barriers to prevent shoreline recession.
- Structural walls along with beach nourishment - where the seawall defines the inland extent of erosion, while sand is intermittently placed in front of the wall for improved beach amenity.
- Groynes or offshore breakwaters - used to inhibit the natural longshore movement of sand, thereby retaining sand on the eroding foreshore for longer periods.
- Groynes or offshore breakwaters along with beach nourishment - where the structure assists in maintaining sand on the beach, and beach nourishment reduces the downdrift erosion caused by the groyne's interruption to longshore sand supply.

The optimum management strategy typically could be either 'soft' or 'hard' solutions, or a combination of both.

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Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

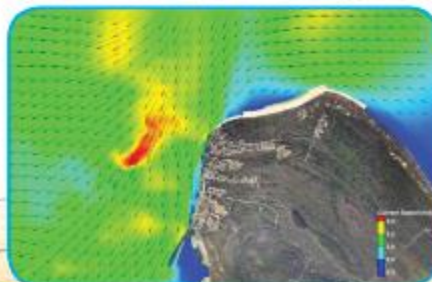
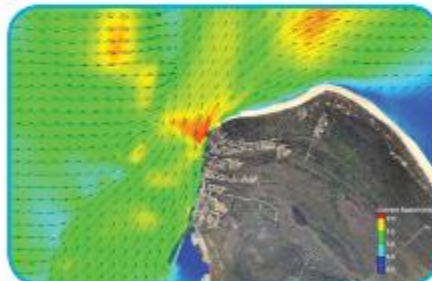
How does the SEMP fit in with other Council plans?

Management of coastal areas that are vulnerable to erosion is complex due to varying land tenure, high recreational and ecological values, competing interests in the land, and coastal processes. Long term planning for these areas must also consider the potential for coastal hazards, such as storm tide events and flooding, and the need for adaptation to climate change induced sea-level rise.

Also on display

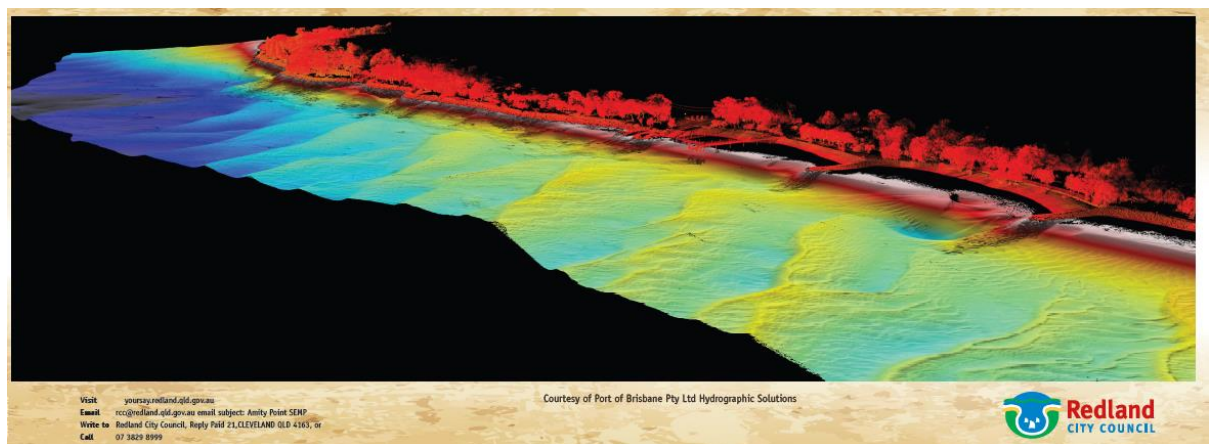
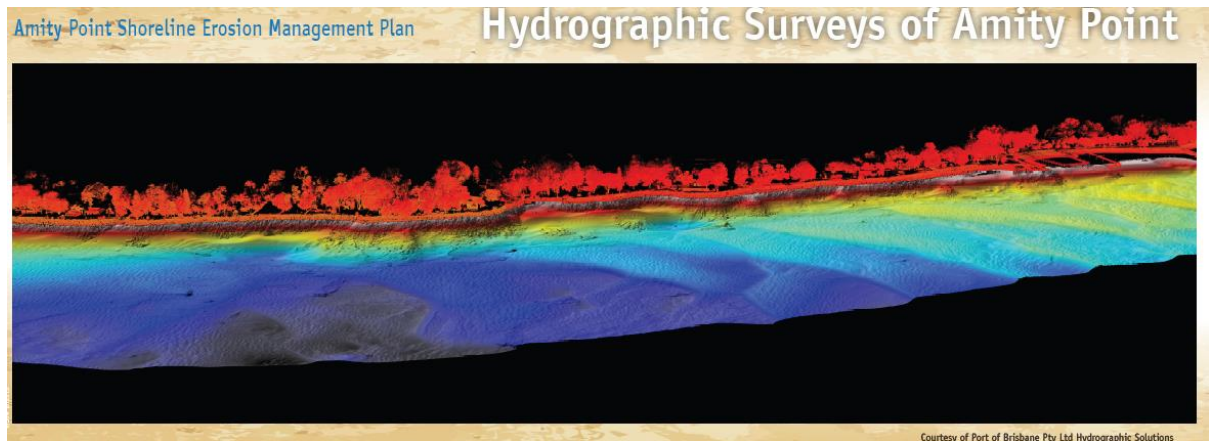
- Storm surge maps from City Plan
- Coastal erosion maps from City Plan
- City Plan zone map
- Explanations of zones and overlays panel from City Plan
- Explanation of tables of assessment from City Plan

Amity Point Coastal processes



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APPENDIX 4 - Open House Activities

What mitigation are best suited to which precinct- Why?

HOMES NEED TO BE PROTECTED
When will it start. + WHO will pay

Channel diversion -

Sink a big ship for
divers — tourism — break flow
of current
Beware of unintended consequences.

Look Overseas → reefs

substitutes

Remember the load of coral put south side of
current jetty. This was to be to solve erosion.
All the coral went out to sea on first few high
tides.

Harness the channel energy
→ turbines to generate
electricity to power our homes
free of charge

The owners on shoreline are responsible for paying
for the rock which protects all of Amity. This doesn't
seem fair.

DBROKE
ID
4,000 6,000

What mitigation measures are best suited to which precinct - Why?

ATTENTION TO SWAMP OUTLET FROM BIRCH ST TO TENNIS COURTS
ERROSION HAPPENING / BACKS UP TO SWAMP BEHIND
GONZALES ST.

Fed up with "STOP GAP" MEASURES.

HARD STRUCTURAL WALL
NEEDED ✓✓✓

NEED TO STOP 4x4 Traffic on foreshore from
Main Beach around to Amity Beach.
(Used to be signed (no longer) barrier. Traffic
damages beach structure.
central and south precinct extend ~~to~~
existing hard bottom in channel
maybe ~~put~~ pylons at front of houses which
could be backfilled

The coastline in front of camping ground is
vulnerable to erosion - Will the rock wall be
extended? Is there another solution?

Amity

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What changes have you seen ?

To Little help

erosion continues.

- WATER TABLE HAS LOWERED OVER LAST 10-15 YEARS
DOES THIS EFFECT HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE? FOR EROSION.
- MIDDLE SAND BANK HAS GROWN TOWARDS AMITY
BY 300 m PLUS - NARROWING OF MAIN CHANNEL
+ INCREASES WATER FLOW RATE
- NEW CHANNEL FORMING TO SOUTHERN SIDE OF SAND ISLAND
PARALLEL TO TOP END OF ROUS CHANNEL. ABOUT 5m.
- DEEP WATER OF CHANNEL IS MUCH CLOSED TO ROCK WALL
- OYSTER LEASES AT DIAIBA PASSAGE HAVE INCREASED IN HEIGHT
NEW SAND LEVELS BY APPROX. 500 mm.
- MIDDLE BANK AT WELSBY LIGHT IS MUCH HIGHER JUST BELOW
LOW WATER MARK.

What chan

Draining of
swamp - Water

Need to prot
by tourist an

The Basin
area.

Very few
to be had

What changes

What changes have you seen?

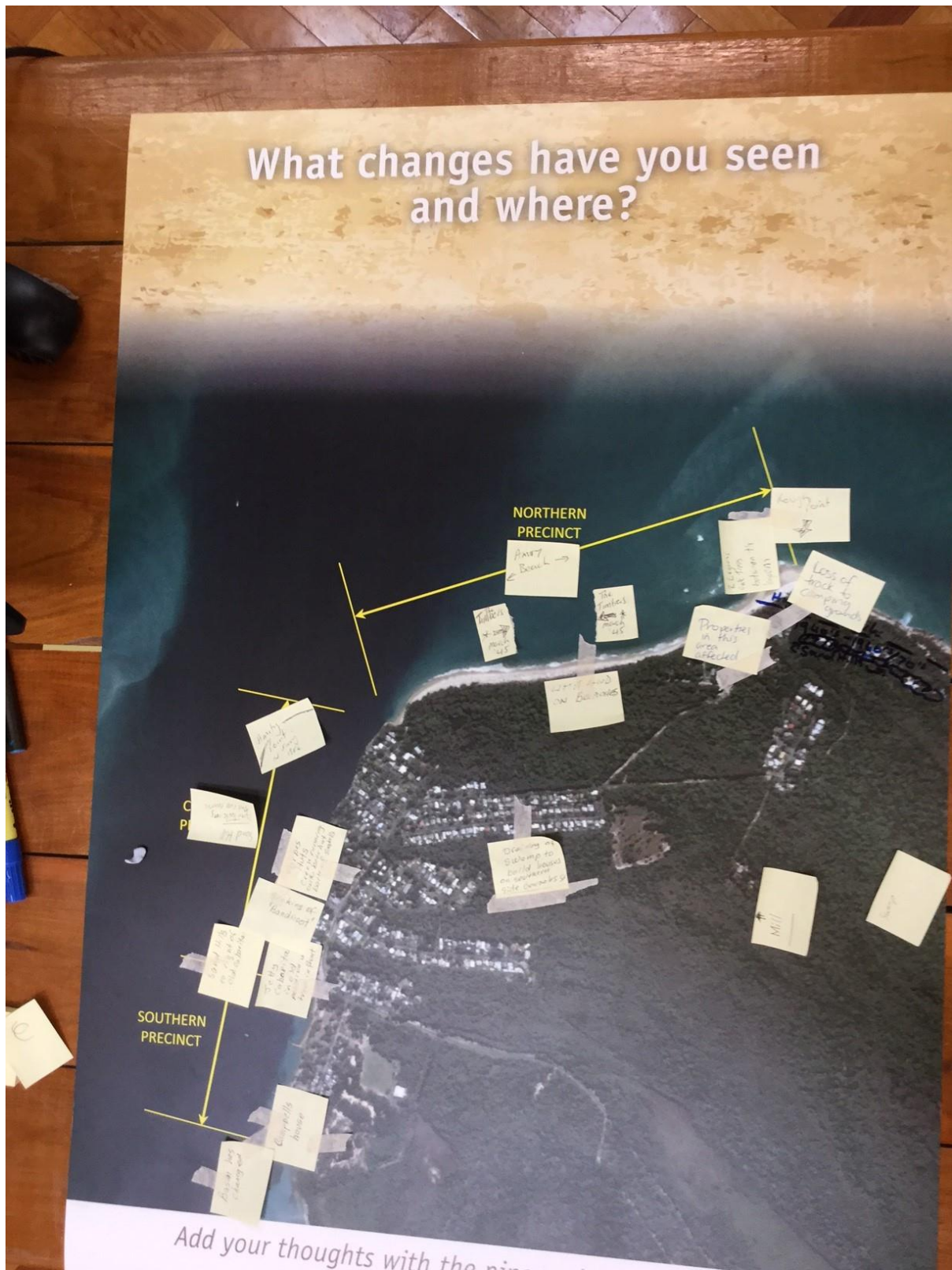
Draining of the swamps at right angles to existing swamp - Water drains to wallum creek.

Need to protect \$1,000,000 boat ramp that is used by tourist and commercial/professional fishermen.

The Basin used to be a suitable large boat mooring area.

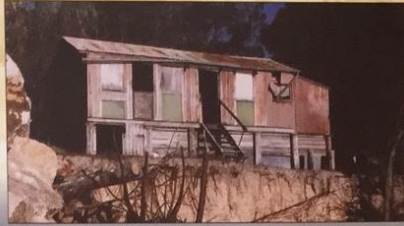
Very few in most areas. Rock walls seem to be holding along the Central Precinct.

What changes have seen.



Social values

What are the implications of erosion threat to the community?



Add your thoughts with the pins and post-its supplied

Add your thoughts with the pins and post-its supplied

Terrestrial environmental values

Are there any specific locations at Amity Point with important environmental values?



Add your thoughts with the pins and post-its supplied

Aboriginal heritage

Are there specific locations at Amity Point that are important to Aboriginal heritage?



NORTHERN PRECINCT

CENTRAL PRECINCT

SOUTHERN PRECINCT

Add your thoughts with the pins and post-its supplied

Terrestrial environmental values

Historical values

Are there specific locations at Amity Point that are important to European heritage?

The map shows Amity Point divided into three precincts by yellow lines and arrows:

- NORTHERN PRECINCT**: Located at the tip of the point. Includes a historical photograph of a group of people in front of a thatched-roof building. Handwritten notes include: "What about Aboriginal history?", "Don't know than just a few photos", and "As history important".
- CENTRAL PRECINCT**: Located in the middle of the point. Includes a handwritten note: "Birth of Amity Post office shop".
- SOUTHERN PRECINCT**: Located at the base of the point. Includes handwritten notes: "Campbell's house" and "End of the line".

At the bottom of the map, a white banner reads: "Add your thoughts with the pins and post-its supplied".

Infrastructure

What infrastructure such as roads, water, sewerage is important to the community?

The map shows the coastline of Amity Point, divided into three precincts by yellow arrows:

- NORTHERN PRECINCT**: The northernmost section of the coastline.
- CENTRAL PRECINCT**: The middle section of the coastline.
- SOUTHERN PRECINCT**: The southernmost section of the coastline.

Handwritten notes and pins are placed on the map:

- Central Precinct**: "LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION NOT A HOT SPOT BUT A HOT SPOT FOR THE BEACH" (pin), "LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION NOT A HOT SPOT BUT A HOT SPOT FOR THE BEACH" (post-it), "LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION NOT A HOT SPOT BUT A HOT SPOT FOR THE BEACH" (post-it).
- Southern Precinct**: "Water Treatment Plant" (post-it).

Add your thoughts with the pins and post-its supplied

Marine values

What near-shore areas of Amity Point are important to local and regional marine biodiversity?

The map shows Amity Point divided into three precincts by yellow lines with arrows: NORTHERN PRECINCT (top), CENTRAL PRECINCT (middle), and SOUTHERN PRECINCT (bottom). Handwritten notes on post-its are pinned to the map: 'Sand banks' (top left), 'Toilet' (top center), 'Mangrove habitat' (bottom left), and 'Wallum Creek fish sanctuary' (bottom center). A small inset photo of a whale breaching the water is in the top right.

Add your thoughts with the pins and post-its supplied