

FACT SHEET

Coochiemudlo Island Shoreline Erosion Management Plan



Image courtesy of Dr. Mark Pillsworth

Coochiemudlo Island is located off the coast of south-east Queensland in the southern part of Moreton Bay.

Home to hundreds of residents and an abundance of native wildlife, the island is surrounded by an Emerald Fringe, containing within it woodlands, caves, beaches and wetlands.

Council's 2016 Coastal Adaptation Strategy (CAS) identified areas on Redlands Coast subject to erosion and recommended appropriate and sustainable management actions for these areas. Under the CAS, some areas of Coochiemudlo Island are classified as medium-risk, and in 2017 Council began work on the Coochiemudlo Island Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP).

Since then, Council has engaged coastal engineering consultants and stakeholders, including Queensland

Government agencies and the project's Community Reference Group, to develop the SEMP to help manage the impacts of coastal erosion at Coochiemudlo Island.

The Coochiemudlo Island SEMP recommends the most suitable management actions for Council to implement to help protect the island from erosion. Implementation of the recommended actions is subject to Council's annual budget development and budget prioritisation process.

Redland City Council adopted the Coochiemudlo Island Shoreline Erosion Management Plan in February 2021.

Note, the CAS is not to be confused with Council's Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS). The CHAS is a long-term planning document to help Council and landowners adapt to a range of coastal hazards up to the years 2070 and 2100. For more information about the CHAS, visit yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/CHAS.

What is a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan?

A Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) is a non-statutory planning document that outlines an agreed framework and strategy for Council to manage and respond to current and future erosion risks.

The Coochiemudlo Island SEMP investigates the underlying causes of shoreline erosion by assessing the coastal processes occurring on the foreshore and considering the island's environmental, cultural and economic values.

The document also outlines what actions stakeholders, including governments and communities can take to manage the impacts of erosion on the foreshore.

What's happening at Coochiemudlo Island and why is a SEMP required?

Coochiemudlo Island is subject to erosion, and the SEMP determined it is caused primarily by storm events. The SEMP also assessed the island's 'sand movement patterns' and ascertained sand is travelling in both directions along the eastern foreshore, varying seasonally and depending on weather conditions. Coastal process studies found that during the summer months, sand will travel south along Norfolk Beach and west along Main Beach.

In 2016, Council developed its Coastal Adaptation Strategy (CAS) to identify areas on Redlands Coast subject to erosion and recommend appropriate and sustainable management actions for these areas. Under the CAS, some areas of Coochiemudlo Island are classified as medium-risk, and in 2017 Council began work on the current Coochiemudlo Island Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP).

The SEMP helps Council to understand the coastal processes occurring on the island's foreshore and recommends viable management actions to protect the island from erosion.

What are the recommended management actions for Coochiemudlo Island?

The SEMP recommends Council implement the following management actions:

- Post-storm beach nourishment across the island to help accelerate the natural recovery process and provide a buffer against future coastal hazards

- Ongoing beach monitoring program, involving the installation of photo monitoring points and annual beach surveys to refine the management plan
- Vegetation and stormwater management
- Formalisation of beach access
- Sustainable relocation of dredged sand

Implementation of the recommended actions is subject to Council's annual budget development and budget prioritisation process.

Is private property or public infrastructure on Coochiemudlo Island at risk of being impacted by erosion?

The shoreline erosion occurring on Coochiemudlo Island poses little risk to private land or public infrastructure.

Council will use the SEMP to implement the recommended management actions to protect the island's environmental, cultural, and economic values, including foreshore vegetation and beach amenity.

Implementation of the recommended actions is subject to Council's annual budget development and budget prioritisation process.

What are the next steps?

Implementation of the recommended actions is subject to Council's annual budget development and budget prioritisation process.

Who was consulted during the development of the SEMP?

Council undertook consultation during the development of the SEMP with stakeholders including Queensland Government agencies and the project's Community Reference Group. The community reference group comprised several Coochiemudlo Island residents and representatives from community organisations and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation.

Where can I view a copy of the SEMP?

The Coochiemudlo Island SEMP is available for downloading at Council's Coochiemudlo Island Shoreline Erosion Management Plan Your Say page. To download a copy, visit yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/coochiemudlo-island-shoreline-erosion-management-plan.