



*Blacks Beach*



# 2017

## Local Coastal Plan Summary and Highlights

## ROCKY OUTCROP

### Zone A

- Weed control and assisted natural regeneration
- Upgrade Camilleri St staircase
- New beach access at northern end of Blacks Beach Park
- Formalisation of pathways
- Car parking upgrade

## Blacks Beach Park

### BLA01

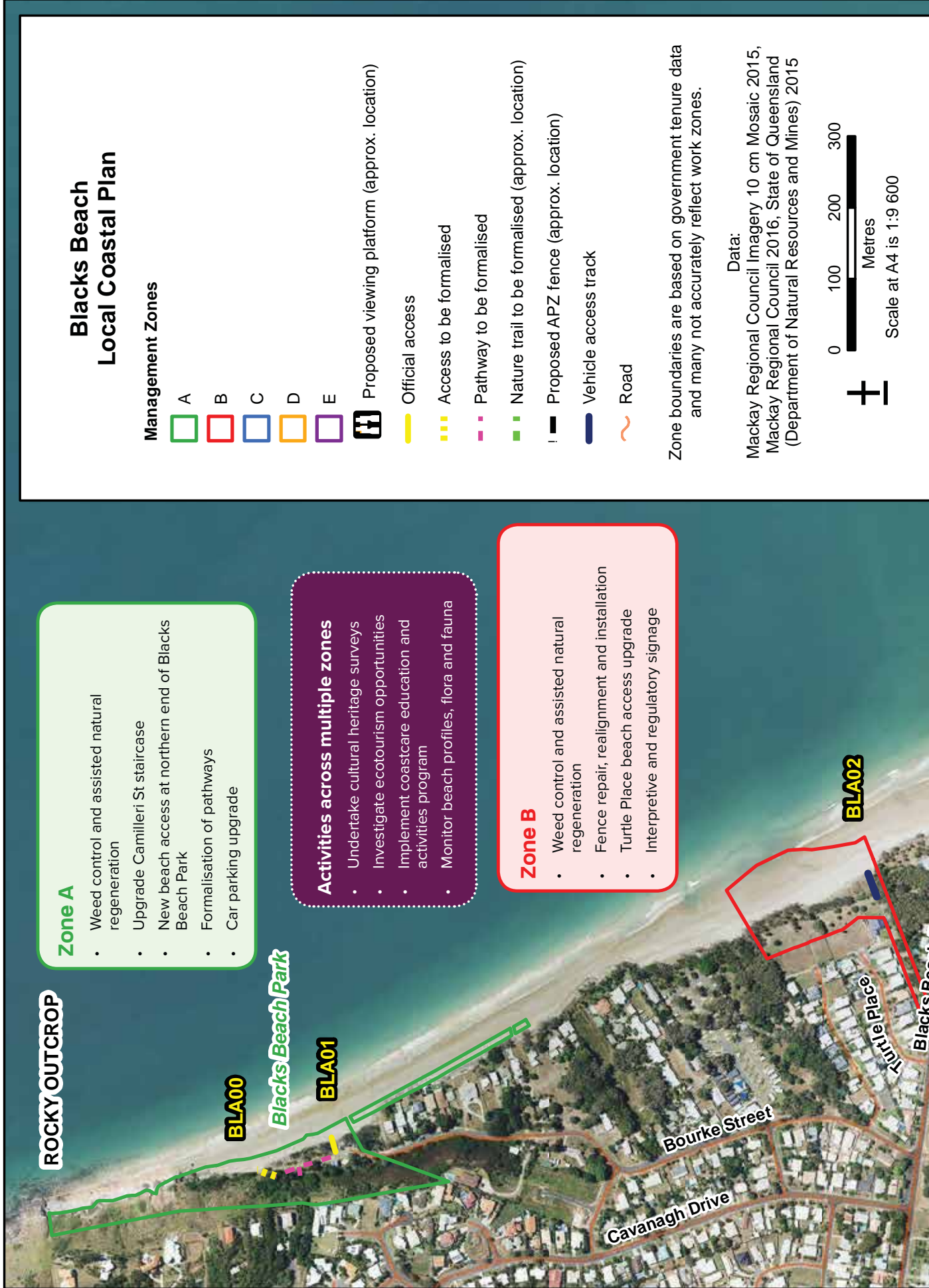
### Activities across multiple zones

- Undertake cultural heritage surveys
- Investigate ecotourism opportunities
- Implement costshare education and activities program
- Monitor beach profiles, flora and fauna

### Zone B

- Weed control and assisted natural regeneration
- Fence repair, realignment and installation
- Turtle Place beach access upgrade
- Interpretive and regulatory signage

### BLA02



# Blacks Beach Local Coastal Plan

## Management Zones

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

Proposed viewing platform (approx. location)

Official access

Access to be formalised

Pathway to be formalised

Nature trail to be formalised (approx. location)

Proposed APZ fence (approx. location)

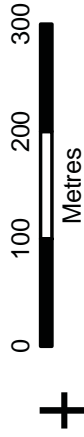
Vehicle access track

Road

Zone boundaries are based on government tenure data and many not accurately reflect work zones.

Data:

Mackay Regional Council Imagery 10 cm Mosaic 2015,  
Mackay Regional Council 2016, State of Queensland  
(Department of Natural Resources and Mines) 2015



Scale at A4 is 1:9 600



**Zone C**

- Weed control and assisted natural regeneration
- All abilities viewing platform, pathway and beach access upgrade at Pitt St
- Car parking upgrade and additional infrastructure at Pitt St
- Small-scale viewing platform near The Shores
- Nature trail between Pitt St and the Spit walk

**Zone D**

- Weed control and assisted natural regeneration
- Fence replacement
- Car parking at the southern end of Pacific Drive

**Zone E**

- Weed control and assisted natural regeneration
- Fencing behind properties on western side of Pacific Drive



# About Blacks Beach

**The Blacks Beach coastal unit supports rare and threatened species including migratory shorebirds, marine turtles and critically endangered beach scrub vegetation. It is also a popular recreational area for locals and visitors to our region.**

Council manages its coastal land at Blacks Beach through an integrated program of planning, on-ground works, monitoring and community engagement known as the *Coasts and Communities Program*. As part of this program, Coastal Management Guidelines have been developed to provide a framework for management decisions and activities for coastal land under Council's jurisdiction. Individual Local Coastal Plans, such as this plan for Blacks Beach, provide site-specific recommendations for individual beach units.

The *Blacks Beach Local Coastal Plan* describes the environmental and social values of the coastal unit, as well as the key threats and management issues. Key pressures include the presence of non-native vegetation, the removal of native vegetation, waste dumping, erosion and climate

change. Recommendations to manage these threats include weed control, revegetation, fencing and access management. Social values are also described and opportunities to improve recreational facilities and values have been identified, including additional beach accesses, pathways, interpretive signage and infrastructure such as bike racks and a viewing platform. The recommended activities will be implemented on a prioritised basis as resources become available. Community engagement is recognised as a critical part of the success of on-ground works and opportunities for the community to learn about coastal ecosystems and get involved in management activities at Blacks Beach will be provided through the Coastcare program.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR LOCAL COASTAL PLAN (LCP)

The activities recommended in this Local Coastal Plan will help protect and improve the condition of assets in the coastal unit, ensure best-practice management principles are implemented and on-ground activities are prioritised and undertaken in a coordinated and strategic way. This plan will help attract additional funding to the region (including from State and Federal sources) to protect coastal resources and improve recreational opportunities for our community.



# Environmental values and management issues

## Vegetation and Wildlife Values

Blacks Beach runs from McCreadys Creek to Dolphin Heads and is the longest continuous stretch of beach in the Mackay area. Despite extensive development, remnant vegetation still exists in the coastal unit, including patches of the critically endangered beach scrub (R.E. 8.2.2). These remnant vegetation communities provide habitat for native fauna including a wide array of reptile, amphibian and mammal species including monitors, frogs and melomys. Blacks Beach is one of the three most important turtle nesting beaches in the region, hosting flatback and occasionally green turtles. The southern end of Blacks Beach and the Spit are also locally important intertidal roosting sites for shorebirds, supporting a number of migratory and non-migratory species. Blacks Beach also contains habitat for the rare northern quoll, and the vulnerable coastal sheathtail bat and mangrove mouse.

Key threats to remnant vegetation at Blacks Beach include development, weed invasion, mowing and disturbance. These threats interrupt natural vegetation zonation, and reduce the resilience of coastal ecosystems. Threats to wildlife include habitat loss and degradation, predation by domestic and feral animals and disturbance to nesting or roosting sites. Climate change is likely to place additional stresses on coastal vegetation and wildlife.

Protecting existing native vegetation, re-establishing vegetation zonation and improving vegetation quality through weed control are key ways this plan seeks to protect and

enhance the vegetation and wildlife values in this area.

Providing opportunities for the local community to learn about coastal ecosystems and wildlife through Coastcare events and interpretive signage will raise awareness about coastal values at Blacks Beach.

## Coastal Processes and Erosion

Coastal environments are dynamic, experiencing periods of erosion and accretion. Well-vegetated coastal dunes help protect coastal infrastructure during intense wind, storm and cyclone events. Human induced changes such as coastal development and vegetation loss can reduce the protective capacity of dune systems and coastal recession can occur.

The northern section of Blacks Beach has been eroding since the establishment of residential properties in the 1950s. Early responses included the construction of sea walls along the northern end of the beach, accelerating erosion downdrift of the sea walls, which resulted in the extension of the walls in an attempt to protect properties from erosion. Sea walls reduce the ability for sand dunes to rebuild themselves and usually result in the loss of beach. South of Blacks Beach Road, there are areas where the dunes are prograding or growing. Maintaining and improving vegetation along the dune system will be key to minimising future erosion and providing a buffer during major storm events.

Climate change and sea level rise is likely to worsen the extent and impact of erosion in coastal areas. Monitoring of beach profiles will provide early indication of changes.

# Social Values and Management Issues

## Cultural and Recreational Values

Blacks Beach is located 11km north of Mackay within an open bay known as Slade Bay. It is Mackay's longest continuous beach and a popular holiday location. With high visitation, a young demographic and high population density spread along the coast, recreational options in the coastal unit are in high demand. There are two parks in Blacks Beach providing a range of recreation opportunities, including playgrounds, picnic tables, seating areas and a BBQ shelter. The recreational facilities provide a range of social benefits including opportunities for active and passive recreation, tourism, education and social interaction, as well as supporting community well-being and providing opportunities for improving general health through outdoor recreation.

The Local Coastal Plan considers the extent and state of built assets, including access points, play equipment, signage, toilet facilities, paths and fencing. Opportunities for improving built

assets to meet community needs and improve recreational opportunities in the area are identified. A nature trail from Pitt St linking to Blacks Beach Spit walk is recommended to provide a scenic and varied outdoor experience. Improving connections between beach access points, facilities, roads and carparks is also recommended. An all abilities access point and car park upgrades are proposed for Blacks Beach Park. The Camilleri St staircase will also be upgraded. Parking upgrades, additional facilities including a toilet and an all abilities viewing platform are proposed at the end of Pitt St. A small-scale viewing platform is also proposed in front of the Shores Holiday Apartments.

Key management issues at Blacks Beach include unrestrained dogs, 4wds, quad bikes and motorbikes on the beach, weed invasion and removal of coastal vegetation. Community education and enforcement activities will be undertaken as required.



## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ Construction of an all abilities beach access at the northern end of Blacks Beach Park.
- ▶ Upgrading the stairs leading from Blacks Beach Park to Camilleri Street as a recreational asset and to provide connection to Dolphin Heads.
- ▶ A pathway linking the new beach access, the Camilleri Street stairs, the existing beach access and the Bourke Street car park.
- ▶ A nature trail from Pitt Street linking to Blacks Beach Spit Walk.
- ▶ Weed control across all zones, targeting major weeds including Guinea grass and lantana, and revegetation to assist establishment of native vegetation.
- ▶ Realigning fencing 15-20m landward from BLA02 access track and continuing fencing to the northern end of Zone B.
- ▶ An all abilities access viewing platform adjacent to the Pitt Street beach access.
- ▶ Realignment of the fencing location in Zone C between Pitt Street and Anglers Parade and provide privacy landscape treatments.
- ▶ Continuation of the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) behind properties on the western side of Pacific Drive, including the installation of fencing.
- ▶ Installation of regulatory and interpretive signage where appropriate.

*The full suite of recommended activities can be found at the end of this document.*



## STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS



### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- *Biosecurity Act 2015* provides management principles for diseases and pests that may cause harm to human, animal or plant health or the environment, and for other related purposes
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* provides a high level of protection for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). In particular it provides protection for important populations of migratory species.
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* provides for the preservation and protection of areas and objects in Australia and in Australian waters that are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition.



### INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

- *China and Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA)*, the *Japan and Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA)*, and the *Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA)* provide for conservation of shorebirds (waders) across the migratory flyway for these species.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- *Mackay Regional Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011* provides for the management of Council controlled lands by enabling the prohibition of vehicle access and protection of vegetation and infrastructure.
- *Mackay Regional Council Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* provides for the management of animals in the natural environment,



### STATE GOVERNMENT

- *Land Act 1994* provides for the designation of the reserves and assignment of Trustees for the protection of environmentally and culturally valuable and sensitive areas and features.
- *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* provides for the establishment, maintenance and use of recreation areas; and aims to coordinate, integrate and improve recreational planning, recreational facilities and recreational management for recreation areas.
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999* provides management principles for vegetation within Queensland.
- *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 (Coastal Act)* provides a comprehensive framework for the coordinated management of the Queensland Coast, and establishes the Queensland Coastal Plan 2012 as the primary statutory instrument under the Coastal Act.
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* provides management principles for wildlife within Queensland.
- *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993* identifies the presence of Native Title over land.



including ensuring that they are under effective control and requiring removal of faeces in a public place.

- *Coastal Management Guidelines 2012* provides a framework for management decisions and activities for land under Mackay Regional Council jurisdiction in the coastal zone.
- *Mackay Regional Council Planning Scheme Open Space Strategy No. 12* outlines Mackay Regional Council's commitment to provide a balanced

There are a range of statutes at the Regional, State and Federal level that are relevant to, and may guide the management of natural resources and recreation within the Mackay area. These are shown below

- *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* provides the regulatory basis for control of pest species. In particular the Act classifies pest species and provides obligations for landholders.
- *Fisheries Act 1994* provides protection for marine plants including mangroves and saltmarshes, and provides the regulatory environment for control of recreational fishing activities.
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* provides the regulatory background for the development of planning schemes.
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* regulates environmentally relevant activities, including release of emissions on land, air or water and noise.
- *Marine Parks Act 2004* regulates use of Marine Park to protect marine environment.
- *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* provides regulatory regime for management of litter and illegal dumping.
- *Queensland Coastal Plan 2012* provides policy guidance to coastal land managers including best practice coastal management principles which support the development of local management plans.

mix of public open space that in turn will provide for a range of active and passive recreational opportunities for the community.

- *Reef Guardian Council program* Recognises Council's commitment to protect, conserve and enhance the values of the Great Barrier Reef for future generations through effective and responsible land-based management practices. *The Coasts and Communities Program* is a key initiative under this project.

# Recommended Activities

Recommended Activities for the Blacks Beach Local Coastal Plan

## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

### ZONE A | Rocky outcrop to southern extent of 40 Bourke Street (3.3 ha)

#### 1 Vegetation management

- 1.1 Control major target weed species including lantana, leuceana, Guinea grass, coconut and prickly pear.
- 1.2 Monitor spread of beach dune primrose and control as required.
- 1.3 Control weeds on and around beach access tracks including highly dispersive weeds such as cobbler's peg and Seaforth burr.
- 1.4 Undertake assisted natural regeneration.
- 1.5 Monitor and where suitable, manage other problematic weed species including, but not limited to: annual stylo, Brazilian nightshade, corky passionflower, common guava, Chinese burr, centro, grader grass, mile a minute, pink periwinkle, red natal grass, snakeweed, tridax daisy and siratro.

#### 2 Access management

- 2.1 Upgrade Camilleri Street staircase and investigate drainage improvements.
- 2.2 Provide beach access point at the northern end of Blacks Beach Park, over the seawall (BLA00).
- 2.3 Connect the Camilleri Street beach access stairs with the proposed beach access track via a concrete pathway.
- 2.4 Install additional concrete pathways within Blacks Beach Park to connect existing and proposed beach access points.
- 2.5 Upgrade car parking area to provide additional car parks.

### ZONE B | North of Turtle Place to BLA02 (3.1 ha)

#### 3 Vegetation management

- 3.1 Control major target weed species including lantana, coconut, leuceana, mother-of-millions and Guinea grass.
- 3.2 Monitor spread of beach dune primrose and control as required.
- 3.3 Control weeds on and around beach access tracks including highly dispersive weeds such as cobbler's peg and Seaforth burr.
- 3.4 Undertake assisted natural regeneration.
- 3.5 Remove green waste and personal property encroaching into Reserve and Esplanade tenure.
- 3.6 Monitor and where suitable, manage other problematic weed species including, but not limited to: annual stylo, Brazilian nightshade, corky passionflower, common guava, Chinese burr, centro, grader grass, mile a minute, pink periwinkle, red natal grass, snakeweed, tridax daisy and siratro.

#### 4 Access management

- 4.1 Repair modified post and rail fencing north of Turtle Place.
- 4.2 Upgrade Turtle Place beach access (BLA02).
- 4.3 Realign Reserve boundary fence landward by 15-20m.
- 4.4 Continue Reserve boundary fence throughout Zone B. Install mesh along the base of the fence.
- 4.5 Replace faded or vandalised interpretive signage.
- 4.6 Install regulatory and interpretive signage, where appropriate.



## **ZONE C | BLA02 to Anglers Parade (7.5 ha).**

### **5 Vegetation management**

- 5.1 Control major target weed species including lantana, coconut, mother-of-millions and Guinea grass.
- 5.2 Monitor spread of beach dune primrose and control as required.
- 5.3 Control weeds on and around walking beach access tracks including highly dispersive weeds such as cobbler's peg and Seaforth burr.
- 5.4 Undertake assisted natural regeneration.
- 5.5 Remove green waste and personal property encroaching into Reserve tenure and the APZ.
- 5.6 Monitor and where suitable, manage other problematic weed species including, but not limited to: annual stylo, Brazilian nightshade, corky passionflower, common guava, Chinese burr, centro, grader grass, mile a minute, pink periwinkle, red natal grass, snakeweed, tridax daisy and siratro.
- 5.7 Provide privacy landscape treatments where desired by residents between Pitt Street and Anglers Parade.

### **6 Recreational opportunities**

- 6.1 Install an all abilities access viewing platform with seating at the Pitt Street beach access.
- 6.2 Upgrade car parking at the end of Pitt Street and install additional infrastructure in the park such as toilet facilities.
- 6.3 Install a small-scale viewing platform with seating in front of the Shores Holiday Apartments.

### **7 Access management**

- 7.1 Connect viewing platform via linkage path to beach access and car park at Pitt Street.
- 7.2 Install a nature trail between Pitt Street and Blacks Beach Spit walk.
- 7.3 Review the location of the fencing between Anglers Parade and Pitt Street, given historical discussions with residents.
- 7.4 Formalise beach access in front of the Shores Holiday Apartments (BLA2.1).

## **ZONE D | Anglers Parade to BLA08 (9.8 ha).**

### **8 Vegetation management**

- 8.1 Control major target weed species including lantana, guava, agave, coconut and Guinea grass.
- 8.2 Monitor spread of beach dune primrose and control as required.
- 8.3 Control weeds on and around beach access tracks including highly dispersive weeds such as cobbler's peg and Seaforth burr.
- 8.4 Undertake assisted natural regeneration.
- 8.5 Remove green waste and personal property encroaching into Reserve tenure and the APZ.
- 8.6 Monitor and where suitable, manage other problematic weed species including, but not limited to: annual stylo, Brazilian nightshade, corky passionflower, common guava, Chinese burr, centro, grader grass, mile a minute, pink periwinkle, red natal grass, snakeweed, tridax daisy and siratro.

### **9 Access management**

- 9.1 Replace BLA06 to BLA08 beach access track fence.
- 9.2 Investigate car parking opportunities at the southern end of Pacific Drive.
- 9.3 Investigate beach closures for domestic animals during turtle nesting and shorebird migration seasons.

## ZONE E | (15.1 ha)

### 10 Vegetation management

- 10.1 Control major target weed species including lantana, agave, coconut, Guinea grass, mother-of-millions, castor oil plant, African tulip and red leaved alternanthera.
- 10.2 Control weeds on and around access tracks including highly dispersive weeds such as cobbler's peg and Seaforth burr.
- 10.3 Undertake assisted natural regeneration.
- 10.4 Remove green waste and personal property encroaching into Reserve tenure and the APZ.
- 10.5 Monitor and where suitable, manage other problematic weed species including, but not limited to: annual stylo, Brazilian nightshade, corky passionflower, common guava, Chinese burr, centro, grader grass, mile a minute.
- 10.6 Liaise with adjoining owner of land which is zoned Urban under the Planning Scheme, to discuss mutually beneficial vegetation management activities.

### 11 Access management

- 11.1 Continuation of the APZ behind properties on the western side of Pacific Drive, including the installation of fencing, including mesh, no more than 10m from the property boundary.
- 11.2 Provide pedestrian access to the Reserve at the end of Cowrie Street.
- 11.3 Maintain emergency and maintenance vehicle gates at the end of Cowrie Street.
- 11.4 Liaise with adjoining owners of land which is zoned Urban under the Planning Scheme, to discuss mutually beneficial access management activities.

## Other activities across multiple zones

### 12 Cultural heritage

- 12.1 Engage Traditional Owners to undertake cultural heritage surveys of the area to outline clear management objectives for the preservation cultural heritage within the coastal unit.

### 13 Signage

- 13.1 Audit all beach access signs across the unit and update or install:
  - Signage at the landward end of each beach access point that clearly identifies the beach access number, restricted activities, hazards present and provides information on the appropriate first aid treatment for marine stingers.
  - Beach access numbering signage at the seaward end of each beach access point.
- 13.2 Install pathway linkage signage that describes pathway routes and beach access tracks and include measured walking distances.

### 14 Access management

- 14.1 Install regulatory signage to protect shorebird and marine turtle populations.
- 14.2 Consider pathway linkages in neighbouring areas to improve connectivity between parks and reserves including Bourke Street, Pacific Drive, Coral Drive and Pitt Street.
- 14.3 Adhere to the recommendations outlined in Council's *Blacks Beach Mackay Bushfire Management Plan*.

### 15 Recreation

- 15.1 Provide bicycle racks at all recreational hot spots.

### 16 Tourism

- 16.1 Investigate ecotourism opportunities in collaboration with relevant stakeholders such as Mackay and District Turtle Watch Association.

### 17 Vegetation maintenance

- 17.1 Continue to protect and enhance well-vegetated dune systems.

### 18 Community involvement

- 18.1 Provide opportunities for community members to be involved in coastal management activities at formal Coastcare events.

- 19 Monitoring**
- 19.1 Undertake beach profile monitoring to record and assess change over time and monitor the impacts of sea level rise and the changing dynamics of coastlines to guide future coastal planning and works.
- 19.2 Consider a regional study on the long-term sediment (sand) supply for the Mackay coastline.
- 19.3 Monitor, or in partnership with others, assist with the monitoring of shorebirds and turtles.
- 20 Climate change**
- 20.1 Consider how to manage future predicted reduction in coastal land to retain buffer above the high tide mark (e.g. rolling boundaries).
- 20.2 Review existing revegetation list to ensure that species reflect diversity of all Regional Ecosystem present in coastal unit and in preparation for future predicted climates.
- 21 Stormwater outlets**
- 21.1 Assess stormwater outlets and consider opportunities for Gross Pollutant Traps within the coastal unit.
- 22 Legislation and local laws**
- 22.1 Use available legislation to protect existing native vegetation on Esplanade and Reserve tenure as required.
- 22.2 Using existing laws, undertake enforcements and compliance activities across the area, particularly relating to unrestrained dogs and motor vehicles in park and beach areas.
- 22.3 Review and update this document in line with changing legislation.
- 23 Enhancement of surrounding areas**
- 23.1 Implement a tree succession plan across the length of the coastal unit.
- 23.2 Implement a roadside vegetation program to increase the amount of street trees along roads.
- 24 Waste management**
- 24.1 Inform residents of appropriate waste disposal methods. Follow up with education, regulation and enforcement activities.
- 24.2 Educate the community on the impacts of waste on native vegetation, dune health, and wildlife.
- 25 Seawall assessment**
- 25.1 Review structural integrity of seawall structures under council control and upgrade as required including scour potential in locations downdrift of the walls (terminal scour) and the risk to public safety (particularly significant for the northern most seawall situated along public reserve/picnic area).
- 26 Education**
- 26.1 Partner with Coastcare and others to deliver education programs about:
- Local weed species and the use of local native species in residential gardens.
  - Garden waste and general waste disposal.
  - Responsible pet ownership including having dogs on leads at all times, unless in a designated dog off leash area, where they must still be under effective control and respond to the owner's commands.
  - The ecology and threats to native wildlife including marine turtles and shorebirds.

BLACKS BEACH SUPPORTS PATCHES OF **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED** BEACH SCRUB



BLACKS BEACH AND BLACKS BEACH SPIT ARE BOTH

**IMPORTANT INTERTIDAL ROOSTS**

FOR SHOREBIRDS IN THE MACKAY REGION



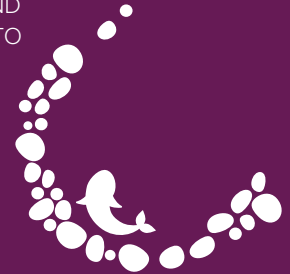
BLACKS BEACH IS ONE OF THE

**3**

**HIGHEST DENSITY** MARINE TURTLE NESTING BEACHES IN THE MACKAY REGION



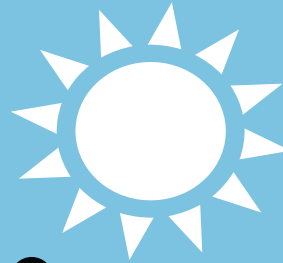
ENCOMPASSING LANDSCAPES AND PLACES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES IN THE MACKAY REGION AND MAY CONTAIN **MIDDENS, FISHTRAPS AND OTHER CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS**



UP TO

**584**

**SHOREBIRDS** AT ANY ONE TIME ARE RECORDED EACH YEAR USING THE FORESHORE TO REST AND FEED



IT IS THE

**LONGEST**

CONTINUOUS STRETCH OF BEACH IN THE MACKAY AREA



BLACKS BEACH IS **HIGHLY VALUED BY LOCALS AND VISITORS**, WHO LIKE TO ENJOY THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS **NATURAL ASSETS**



**14 ha**

OF TARGETED WEED MANAGEMENT WORKS FROM 2010 TO 2015



**POPULAR** RECREATIONAL BEACH



COASTAL DUNE SYSTEMS PLAY A **CRUCIAL ROLE** IN THE ECOSYSTEM. VEGETATION IS CRITICAL TO DUNE FORMATION AND STABILISATION.



REVEGETATION OF

**4ha**

OF FOREDUNES (FROM 2010 –2015) TO SHIELD NESTING AND **HATCHING TURTLES** FROM LIGHT POLLUTION



**How to view the Local Coastal Plan**

Visit [www.mackay.qld.gov.au](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au)

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