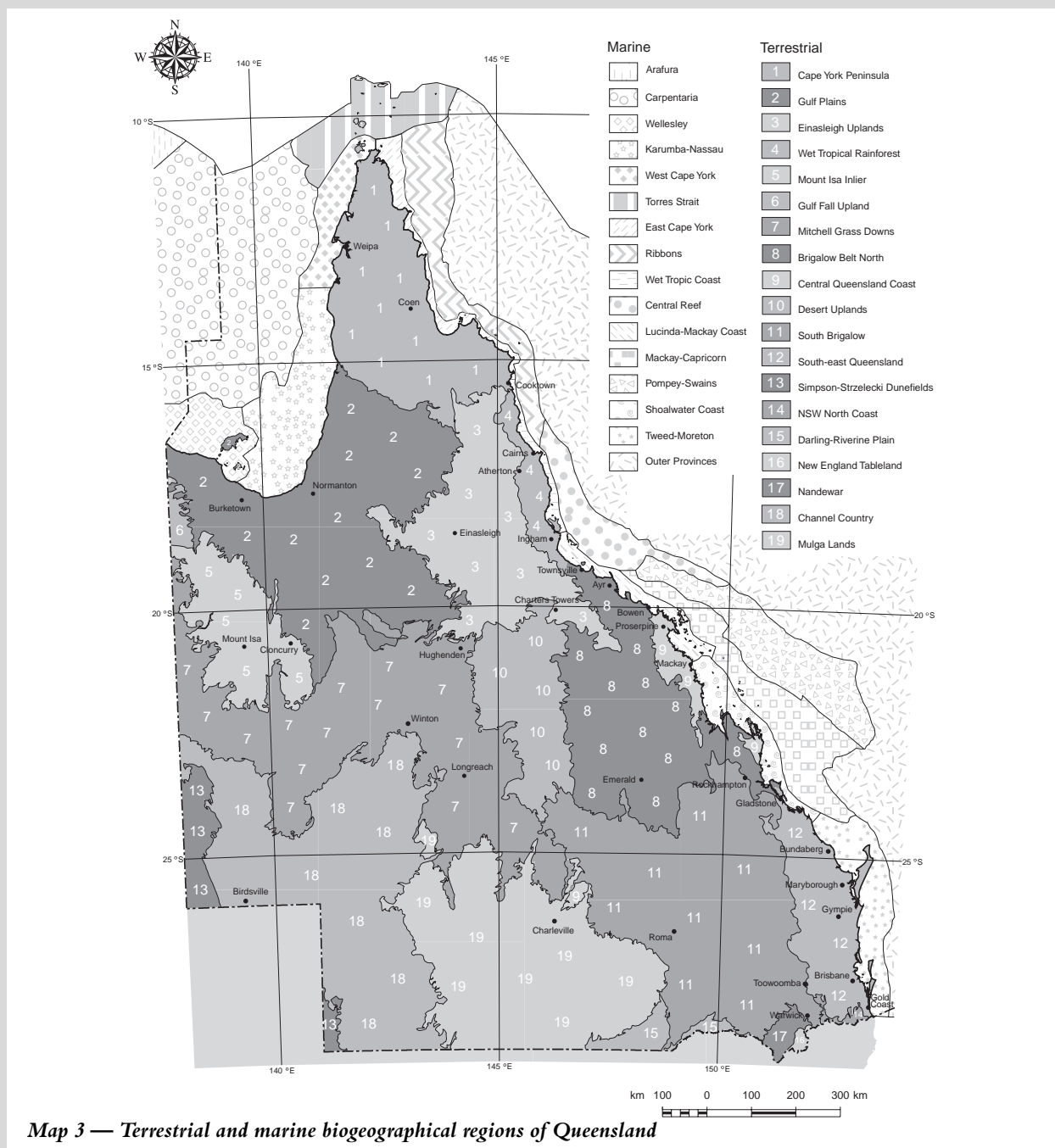


## Schedule I: Regional overviews

The Queensland coast has been subdivided into eleven coastal regions for the purpose of preparing regional coastal plans. The regions' boundaries are based on coastal local government boundaries. The overview for each region generally describes the region, its coastal resources, existing management and administration arrangements, and the key coastal management issues.<sup>18</sup>

The eleven coastal regions are illustrated in map 1. Map 3 shows the terrestrial and marine bioregions referred to in this schedule.



<sup>18</sup> A large amount of the Indigenous Traditional Owner content in the regional overviews has been obtained through submissions on the draft Plan and outcomes of an Indigenous Traditional Owner workshop. This information should not be taken to comprehensively represent the views of Indigenous Traditional Owners regarding their ancestral homeland estates. Providing comprehensive information on Indigenous Traditional Owner matters (e.g. responsibility for 'country', Indigenous Traditional Owner belief systems and resource management, ability to practice culture) requires the development of culturally appropriate involvement mechanisms. It should also be noted that an Indigenous Traditional Owner view of the 'country' relevant to regional coastal planning may not necessarily conform to the coastal regions described in this schedule.



## Region: Gulf of Carpentaria Coast

### Description

The Gulf of Carpentaria Coast extends from the Northern Territory border to the northern boundary of Aurukun Shire and includes the Wellesley Group of islands. The major coastal towns include Aurukun, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama, Gununa, Normanton, Karumba, Burketown, and Doomadgee.

The region is characterised by extensive estuarine systems, coastal rises dominated by mangrove communities and well-developed sandy beaches. It is largely backed by broad coastal plains traversed by low-gradient streams draining extensive saline coastal flats. The embayment is shallow, less than 70 metres in depth, with extensive fringing sandflats. The tropical monsoon climate creates marked wet and dry seasons. The region is prone to tropical cyclone-induced storm tide inundation.

### Coastal resources

Nationally important wetlands representing a range of wetland types are located on large river systems on the coast. The south-eastern Gulf of Carpentaria is one of the three most important sites for shorebirds in Australia. Very important marine conservation sites include Wellesley and Forsyth Islands, estuarine areas in the southern Gulf, and mangrove systems of the northern Gulf. These areas provide important habitat for seabird colonies, dugongs (*Dugong dugon*), estuarine crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*), marine turtles including the green (*Chelonia mydas*) and flatback (*Natator depressus*), Irrawaddy dolphins (*Orcaella brevirostris*) and Indo-Pacific dolphins (*Sousa chinensis*). Bountiful, Pisonia and Rocky Islands support an internationally significant green turtle nesting population.

The Southern Gulf Plains, incorporating one of the largest, most diverse and least fragmented natural wetland aggregations in Australia, have been included in the Register of the National Estate. The Australian Heritage Commission, in preparing a National Wilderness Inventory, has identified parts of the Gulf Region that have important wilderness qualities.

Indigenous Traditional Owner groups from the region continue to retain strong and continuous connections to their land and traditional marine estates through the maintenance of a diverse range of cultural values, such as language, traditional law, art, resource management and the fulfilment of ceremonial obligations. The region includes many places that are of significance to Indigenous Traditional Owners (refer policy 2.5.1 for examples).

Important cultural heritage values are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, mining, pastoralism, early Aboriginal-European contact, the positioning of Aboriginal missions and reserves, and other timber, scientific and wilderness values. Cape Keerweer is the site of the first recorded contact between Aboriginal people and Europeans in Queensland (William Janz in 1606), and other contact sites are also important. The region is likely to contain many cultural heritage places which have not yet been identified or assessed.

The Port of Karumba provides for shipping of goods including live cattle and seafood. The development of mines in north-west Queensland has made expanded port facilities necessary for export of mineral concentrates, primarily from the Century Zinc mine. Other important industries are the northern prawn fishery, inshore barramundi and grunter fishery, and beef cattle production. The south-eastern coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria is increasingly attracting tourists for the savannah experience and recreational fishing. A number of commercial operators provide camping and fishing safaris.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Gulf Plains and Cape York Peninsula
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Wellesley, Karumba-Nassau and West Cape York

## **Existing management and administration**

Major Aboriginal communities are situated at Aurukun, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Mornington Island and Doomadgee. Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw and Doomadgee communities are serviced by an Aboriginal council with management responsibility within the Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) areas, while Mornington Island and Aurukun (which has a 50 year lease) communities have Shire Councils established under the *Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act 1978*. Indigenous Traditional Owner communities in the region have initiated, and are involved in addressing, coastal management issues through activities such as sustainable fishing practices, tourism and catchment management, and believe these programs and other traditional management processes exemplify best practice environmental management. Kowanyama Aboriginal Council and other Aboriginal agencies with land management responsibilities manage coastal access to protect environmental values and preserve opportunities for Indigenous Traditional Owners to access coastal resources.

Some local governments in the region, particularly Carpentaria and Burke, work together through Gulf Savannah Development (previously the Gulf Local Authorities Development Association Inc.) to actively promote the Gulf.

The Councils of Carpentaria, Burke and Cook have existing planning schemes or interim development controls and are required to prepare new planning schemes under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003. The Councils of Mornington and Aurukun do not have existing planning schemes or interim development controls.

Other management arrangements relevant to the Gulf region include the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy (CYPLUS), and FNQ 2010 Regional Planning Project (FNQ 2010).

## **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ development of the Port of Karumba to de-water slurry from Century Zinc mine and transfer it by barge to ships at sea;
- ◆ maintenance dredging of the Port of Karumba;
- ◆ storm tide risk potential at Karumba, Normanton, Burketown and the numerous remote coastal communities;
- ◆ consideration of the national importance of the natural resources of the area;
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ incursion of exotic plants, animals and diseases;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;

- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items).



## Region: Cape York Peninsula Coast

### Description

The Cape York Peninsula Coast takes in the northernmost tip of the Queensland mainland, between Bloomfield River on the east coast and the southern boundary of Cook Shire near Weipa on the west coast, but excluding the Torres Strait islands and the north Peninsula area.

The Peninsula is renowned for its remote and largely pristine character. On the west coast, the coastal landscape is predominantly one of flat coastal plains, backed by saltpans and dry sclerophyll forest. The plains are interrupted in places by extensive estuarine systems. The east coast of the Peninsula supports rainforest vegetation, vast silica sand dunes and impressive rocky headlands. Seagrass beds and narrow fringing reefs are common. Offshore continental islands and coral cays are numerous on the east coast.

### Coastal resources

The conservation values of the Peninsula are extremely high due to the ecological integrity of vegetation communities. Several of the estuarine systems, such as Jardine Swamps, Newcastle Bay and Lockhart River, are considered to be wetlands of national and international significance. The dune fields and associated wetlands of Olive River/Shelburne Bay and Cape Flattery are of high conservation value and scientific interest. Numerous endemic species occur in the area, including the foxtail palm (*Wodyetia bifurcata*) at Cape Melville.

The east coast of the Peninsula supports a large population of dugongs (*Dugong dugon*), while many of the offshore islands and cays are important breeding grounds for seabirds and marine turtles. Raine Island and Moulter Cay support the world's largest remaining green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting population. The inner shelf cays support internationally significant hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) nesting. This region supports the greatest diversity of seabird nesting within the Great Barrier Reef.

The majority of the Peninsula's resident population are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and many of them live in the communities of Hope Vale (which contains 13 separate Indigenous Traditional Owner groups), Lockhart River, Mapoon, Wujal Wujal, Weipa Napranum and Bamaga. The coast, islands and fringing reefs play an important role in Aboriginal people's traditional and contemporary lifestyle.

Important cultural heritage values for this area are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, early Aboriginal-European contact, coastal navigation, maritime disasters, mining, pastoralism, the positioning of Aboriginal missions and reserves, and other timber, scientific and wilderness values.

Cattle grazing, mining and commercial fishing are the main economic activities in the region. A large bauxite mine operates near Weipa and a silica mine is located at Cape Flattery. Commercial fishing for prawns, mackerel and barramundi occurs on both the east and west coasts, while commercial fishing for reef fish is focused on the east coast. Tourism on the Peninsula is a small but expanding industry, with emphasis to date being placed on four-wheel-drive adventure holidays offering camping and fishing activities.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Cape York Peninsula
- ◆ Marine bioregion — West Cape York and East Cape York

## **Existing management and administration**

Aboriginal community councils established under the *Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984* govern the daily affairs of the Peninsula's Aboriginal communities, including Weipa Napranum, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Umagico, Lockhart River, Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal. Additionally, on the western side of the Peninsula, Indigenous Traditional Owners are establishing community-based land and/or sea management organisations.

The remainder of the region comes under the administration of the Cook Shire Council, which has an existing planning scheme and is required to prepare a new planning scheme under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003.

A regional land use strategy known as CYPLUS (Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy) is now in the implementation phase. The strategy acknowledges the region's outstanding conservation and cultural values and seeks to provide an integrated management approach. Another relevant project is the FNQ 2010 Regional Planning Project (FNQ 2010).

The east coast of the Peninsula abuts both Commonwealth and State marine parks, the Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area and the Cairns Marine Park. As a result, the regional coastal planning process will need to consider the Far Northern Section Zoning Plan of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Great Barrier Reef 25 Year Strategic Plan, Marine Parks (Cairns) Zoning Plan 1992, and outcomes of CYPLUS implementation.

## **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ protection of the silica sand dunes at Shelburne Bay;
- ◆ management of the Jardine Wetlands;
- ◆ management of crocodile nesting sites in the Wenlock River estuary;
- ◆ use of port facilities at Weipa and the expansion of bauxite mining;
- ◆ dredging of the bar at the Port of Cooktown and the promotion of an alternative port at Archer Point;
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ incursion of exotic plants, animals and diseases;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, and including those related to development associated with transport and tourism infrastructure, and mining, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;

- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items).



## Region: Torres Strait

### Description

The region encompasses the northern tip of Cape York Peninsula and extends to near the southwestern coastline of Papua New Guinea. It encompasses the Torres Strait Protected Zone and the 'outside but near area' as defined in Part 4, Article 10 and Annex 9 of the Torres Strait Treaty between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The region generally consists of four sub-areas defined on the basis of geology, soil type and vegetation. The eastern islands are volcanic in origin with rich weathered basaltic soils, dense vine forest and extensive fringing reef platforms. The central islands are sand cays on calcareous basal rock with poor soils, thick vine scrub and well-developed fringing reefs. The islands in the south-west have acid igneous rock and granite, weathering to poor soils, open grasslands and sclerophyll forest, rocky shoreline and narrow fringing reef. The islands of the north-west are of terrigenous origin with peat and silt overlying weathered reef platforms, mangrove-lined coasts and very little reef development.

### Coastal resources

The region supports several endemic mammals and plants and includes remnant species of Papua New Guinean origin. Internationally important marine turtle nesting rookeries occur at Deliverance Island (flatback turtle, *Natator depressus*), Crab Island (flatback turtle) and Sassie Island (hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*). It is also the world's most important habitat for the dugong (*Dugong dugon*).

The Torres Strait has a rich multi-cultural mix evident in the extent and variety of its cultural heritage and has high cultural value for Torres Strait Islander, Aboriginal and Papua New Guinean traditional inhabitants. Cross-border movements for traditional hunting, fishing and visitation by Torres Strait Islander and Papua New Guinean traditional inhabitants are guaranteed under Article 11 of the Torres Strait Treaty. The islands throughout Torres Strait have many places of cultural heritage significance, including evidence of horticulture.

The region also includes cultural heritage sites associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration and navigation, maritime disasters, colonial settlement, missionary activity, fishing, pearl shelling and bêche-de-mer industries, and 19<sup>th</sup> century and World War II coastal defence.

Marine resources are the main economic base for the region. The economy centres on the prawn, tropical rock lobster, mackerel, bêche-de-mer, trochus and pearl shell fisheries. Total annual income from these sources is approximately \$25 million. Tourism is limited but is slowly increasing.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Cape York Peninsula
- ◆ Marine bioregion — West Cape York, East Cape York and Torres Strait

## **Existing management and administration**

The Torres Shire Council has local government responsibility for all non-Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) islands in the area (including Thursday Island). The Island Co-ordinating Council (ICC) provides a coordinated management body for all island community councils. The sixteen DOGIT island councils are Bamaga Island Council (on the Cape York mainland), Badu Island Council, Boigu Island Council, Coconut Island Council, Darnley Island Council, Dauan Island Council, Hammond Island Council, Kubin Island Council (Moa Island), Mabuiag Island Council, Saibai Island Council, Seisia Island Council (Cape York), St Pauls Island Council (Moa Island), Stephen Island Council, Sue Island Council, Yam Island Council, and Yorke Island Council. Mer Island Community Council is also represented by the ICC, although Mer is not a DOGIT island.

Individual island councils have responsibility for managing island issues but do not have jurisdiction over water, though Indigenous Traditional Owners indicate a strong desire for increased control and management of sea industries, such as fisheries, given their strong desire for recognition of native title sea rights, and concern about the potential environmental effects of existing commercial fishing practices.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is an independent Commonwealth Authority, which has responsibility for providing advice to the Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, setting policy for the region, and formulating and implementing programs for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal peoples living in the region. The TSRA has set a target of regional autonomy by 2004.

The Torres Strait Treaty, ratified in 1985 between Australia and Papua New Guinea, defines the boundaries between the two countries (including marine jurisdiction) and an area known as the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ). The principal purpose in establishing the TSPZ is to acknowledge and protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of the Torres Strait Islander and Papua New Guinean inhabitants of the area, including their traditional (subsistence) fishing and their traditional right of free movement by, for example, not requiring passports or visas for Torres Strait Islander and Papua New Guinean traditional inhabitants for traditional activities. The Treaty also requires the Australian and Papua New Guinean Governments to protect and preserve the marine environment and indigenous fauna and flora of the area. In areas of Australian jurisdiction, traditional fishing and commercial fisheries are managed by the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), which comprises the Commonwealth and Queensland Ministers responsible for fisheries. The PZJA is responsible for monitoring the condition of jointly managed fisheries and for the formulation of policies and plans for their management.

Other management arrangements relevant to the Torres Strait region are the Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy (CYPLUS), which is now in the implementation phase, and the FNQ 2010 Regional Planning Project (FNQ 2010).

The Torres Shire Council has an existing planning scheme and is required to prepare a new planning scheme under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003.

## **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ use of the Torres Strait transport corridor for the Papua New Guinea-to-Queensland gas pipeline;
- ◆ environmental management of Torres Strait in accordance with the bilateral agreement between Papua New Guinea and the Commonwealth Government of Australia;
- ◆ upgrading of community infrastructure on the outer islands, such as sewage ocean outfalls, and mitigation of their effects on coastal processes;
- ◆ management of ongoing coastal erosion on islands, particularly on inhabited sand cays;
- ◆ environmental effects of the commercial fishing industry (e.g. prawn trawling);
- ◆ long-term effects of climate change, in particular sea level rise;



- ◆ management of the transportation of hazardous materials, such as oil, between islands;
- ◆ navigation of the Torres Strait by large vessels, and emergency response measures in the event of mishap;
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the local economy and quality of life;
- ◆ incursion of exotic plants, animals and diseases;
- ◆ management of the increasing number of people moving through island communities, and between islands and coastal Papua New Guinea under the terms of the Torres Strait Treaty, and associated health and environmental effects;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Island Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, sea transport, and island quarantine industries and processes), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Torres Strait Island Community Councils and determined native title holders;
- ◆ control of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification, management and protection of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items) in light of ongoing land development and coastal processes such as erosion.



## Region: Wet Tropical Coast

### Description

The Wet Tropical Coast lies between the Bloomfield River in the north and Mission Beach (Wongaling Creek) in the south. The region includes the City of Cairns and a number of townships, including Mission Beach, Innisfail, Yarrabah, Port Douglas and Mossman.

High rainfall, steep rainforest-clad mountains, fields of sugarcane, mangrove-lined estuaries and offshore islands and reefs are the key features of the district. The Bellenden-Kerr Range includes Queensland's highest mountain, Mount Bartle

Frere, which forms a spectacular backdrop to the coast. Tourism and primary production are the most regionally significant industries.

### Coastal resources

The coastline lies between the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Sections of the region, such as the Daintree River-Cape Tribulation segment, are internationally renowned as peak tourist destinations because of their diversity of plant species and access to the reef. Much of the region contains high recreational, environmental and scenic values, having important waterways, cassowary habitat, rare and threatened plant and animal species and nearshore reefs.



Much of the coast, islands and reefs have a special cultural resource significance for Aboriginal people, fulfilling a significant role in their traditional and contemporary lifestyle. Traditional hunting of marine resources including seabird eggs, turtle and dugongs is still practised in some areas. Numerous Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources and other cultural heritage resources have been acknowledged in the region. Important cultural heritage values for the region are associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, coastal navigation, maritime disasters, fishing and bêche-de-mer industries, mining, pastoralism, the sugar industry, World War II coastal defence, tourism and holiday resorts, and the positioning of Aboriginal missions and reserves.

Tourism and sugar production are the region's main economic activities. The tropical climate, relaxed lifestyle and varied opportunities for recreation and tourism draw a large number of domestic and international visitors to the region. Cairns, Palm Cove, Port Douglas, Cape Tribulation and Mission Beach are the most popular destinations. Cairns is the major port for fishing, reef tourism vessels and international cruise ships. Both the Port of Cairns and the Port of Mourilyan are important sugar terminals.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Wet Tropical Rainforest
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Wet Tropic Coast

### **Existing management and administration**

The local government areas of Douglas Shire Council, Cairns City Council and Johnstone Shire Council fall within the immediate coastal sections of the region, along with the Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) areas. The Councils of Douglas, Cairns City and Johnstone, as well as the four hinterland Shires, have existing planning schemes and are required to prepare new planning schemes under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003.

Specific coastal management plans have been developed by some of these local governments, which may be relevant to the regional planning process and include, for example the Douglas Shire Council's Wonga Beach Dune Management Plan and the Cairns City Council's Northern Beaches Local Area Open Space Management Plan.

The FNQ 2010 Regional Planning Project (FNQ 2010) is a relevant ongoing planning project that sets a strategic framework for growth management for the region. The FNQ 2010 Plan, which is now in the implementation phase, is being coordinated by the Department of Local Government and Planning and an Implementation Coordination Group comprising State and local government representatives.

There are several national parks and marine parks, both State and Commonwealth, in the region. The management plans and zoning schemes for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, the Cairns Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Cairns Marine Park will be taken into account in the development of the regional coastal plan. Further Commonwealth plans to be considered in this process include the Cairns Area Plan of Management and the Great Barrier Reef 25 Year Strategic Plan. A proposal to include Trinity Inlet, the Northern Beaches and Wonga Beach within the State marine park is under consideration. The Trinity Inlet Management Plan (TIMP) has been developed to address the management of Trinity Inlet.

### **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ sustainable growth and development of the coastal region;
- ◆ protection of particularly high-value habitat and biodiversity;
- ◆ sustainable management of the waterways and protection of inshore reefs from urban and agricultural runoff;
- ◆ estuary management and protection of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon;

- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ storm tide threat and cyclone impacts;
- ◆ conservation of coastal tropical lowlands, particularly protection of riparian vegetation, remnant rainforest, and freshwater and tidal wetlands;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ incursion of exotic plants, animals and diseases;
- ◆ coastal erosion in several areas;
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items);
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils.



## Region: Cardwell-Hinchinbrook

### Description

The Cardwell-Hinchinbrook region extends from the northern boundary of Cardwell Shire (Wongaling Creek) to the southern boundary of Hinchinbrook Shire and, with the exception of the Palm Island Group, incorporates all coastal islands and State waters in the area, as well as part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The region includes the towns of Tully, Cardwell and Ingham and several smaller coastal communities including South Mission Beach, Lucinda, Taylors Beach and Forrest Beach, as well as extensive rural communities.

The region contains readily accessible areas that offer wilderness values and experiences and has some of the most significant natural resources in Australia, such as parts of the Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas. It possesses a relatively undeveloped coastline with long sandy beaches, estuarine systems and tidal channels, including the highly patterned mangrove estuaries of Hinchinbrook Channel. Numerous offshore continental islands contribute to the outstanding scenery and values, with the internationally acclaimed Hinchinbrook Island being one of the region's highlights. Fertile coastal plains are backed by mountain ranges of the coastal escarpment and a number of major rivers enter the coast,

including the Hull, Tully, Murray and the region's largest, the Herbert River. All of these features combine to give the Cardwell-Hinchinbrook region its unique identity.

### **Coastal resources**

The Cardwell-Hinchinbrook region is widely recognised as having significant biological, recreational, cultural and scenic values. The region contains terrestrial and marine environments of international significance, including parts of the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas. Along some of the coast, such as in the Hinchinbrook Channel, these two World Heritage Areas provide a continuum across two of the world's richest biological systems. It also contains other sites of high biodiversity and natural integrity that remain relatively undisturbed.

The catchments of the Tully, Murray and Herbert Rivers and adjacent marine areas support a diverse range of animals, including numerous rare and threatened terrestrial, freshwater and marine species. Many rare and threatened species, including the cassowary and mahogany glider, depend on the conservation of remnant habitats in this region.

The region's extensive freshwater and tidal wetlands and seagrass beds have a very high biological diversity and are very important breeding and nursery habitats for coastal fisheries. Dugongs, marine turtles, irrawaddy and indo-pacific humpback dolphins are widely distributed in the region, including in Hinchinbrook Channel and Missionary Bay. The offshore islands are important breeding areas for seabirds such as the beach stone-curlew.

The Hinchinbrook area, including Hinchinbrook Island, Hinchinbrook Channel, Brook Islands, Goold Island, the Family Group of Islands and the surrounding waters have World Heritage values of special significance, including the spectacular scenery of Hinchinbrook Island and Channel, extensive and diverse mangrove communities, the floristic diversity of the islands, important seagrass communities, the diversity of coral reefs surrounding the Brook Islands, and significant geological and geomorphological processes and features. The coastal lowlands contain extensive vegetated dune systems, alluvial plains and associated freshwater wetlands. Many of these wetlands are nationally significant.

The region includes many places that are of significance to Indigenous Traditional Owners (refer policy 2.5.1 for examples). Indigenous Traditional Owners include the Bandjin, Girramay, Nywaigi and Wargamay groups.

Other important cultural heritage values are associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, coastal navigation, maritime disasters, coastal shipping, mining, pastoralism, the sugar industry, and tourism.

Specific sites of cultural significance occur within the region, such as the wreck of a B24 Liberator bomber, a relic of World War II on Hinchinbrook Island, and the grave of E.J. Banfield on Dunk Island. A total of 14 sites have been entered in the Register of the National Estate for historic significance.

The Wet Tropics bioregion, part of which occurs in the Cardwell-Hinchinbrook region, is characterised by having the most reliable and highest rainfall and the most significant refuge for tropical rainforests and associated animal species in Australia. Most remaining rainforests within the region occur on the coastal ranges, particularly in Cardwell Shire where rainfall is highest.

The sharp change in topography between the coastal ranges and the lowlands means that rural industries have been restricted to the coastal plains, with the majority of these lowlands now used for sugar cane production, plantation forestry or intensive grazing. The sugar industry is a major enterprise, centred on the coastal alluvial plains. The port at Lucinda provides important sugar export facilities for the Victoria and Macknade Mills located between Ingham and the township of Lucinda. Other marine and terrestrial uses include tourism, commercial fishing, sport, outdoor recreation, and aquaculture. The key tourism centres in the region are South Mission Beach, Cardwell and Lucinda. In addition, resorts have been developed on Dunk and Hinchinbrook Islands.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Wet Tropical Rainforest
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Wet Tropic Coast and Lucinda-Mackay Coast

### **Existing management and administration**

The regional coastal planning process will be integrated with the local planning efforts of the Cardwell, Hinchinbrook and Herberton Shire Councils. The planning schemes of these shires will be used to give effect to the statutory policies of the regional coastal plan. The current planning schemes for the Shires of Cardwell, Hinchinbrook and Herberton, developed under the *Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990*, are required to be replaced by 30 March 2003 with planning schemes prepared in accordance with the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.

The Hinchinbrook Island National Park, the Brook Islands National Park and Goold Island National Park Management Plans were finalised in late 1999. The Family Islands National Park Management Plan was finalised in late 2000.

The Wet Tropics Management Plan for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area was finalised in 1998 and is now being implemented by agencies such as the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the Departments of Primary Industries and Natural Resources and Mines, and local government.

The Commonwealth and State have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the region, to ensure that any resort or other commercial development that is approved in the region is carried out in accordance with the final regional coastal plan, so that coastal values and resources are adequately protected.

In the future, management of marine park areas within the Cardwell-Hinchinbrook region will be in accordance with the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management (HPOM), being prepared by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and the Townsville/Whitsunday Marine Park Management Plan (Hinchinbrook and Family Islands Management Areas) being prepared by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for the Townsville/Whitsunday Marine Park.

Numerous other existing management and administrative arrangements will need to be considered in developing the regional coastal plan. These include the FNQ 2010 Plan, conservation plans for threatened species (e.g. dugongs), both Commonwealth (Central Section of the Great Barrier Reef) and State (Townsville/Whitsunday) marine park zoning plans, the Port of Lucinda Strategic Plan and the Great Barrier Reef 25 Year Strategic Plan.

### **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ integration and coordination of coastal management;
- ◆ management of, and controlled growth for, tourism and other developments along the coast, including coastal settlements, harbours, ports and marinas;
- ◆ retention of wilderness values for the Hinchinbrook Island and Channel;
- ◆ agricultural expansion in coastal lowlands;
- ◆ conservation of significant remnant vegetation on the coastal plain;
- ◆ protection and conservation of threatened species (dugong, mahogany glider and cassowary);
- ◆ conservation of coastal wetlands;
- ◆ water quality, including sediment and agricultural runoff;
- ◆ protection of World Heritage Area values;
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;

- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ storm tide threat and tropical cyclone impacts;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items).



## Region: Dry Tropical Coast

### Description

The Dry Tropical Coast extends from the northern boundary of Thuringowa City to the southern boundary of Bowen Shire and incorporates all coastal islands and State waters in the region, as well as part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The region contains marine environments of international significance and forms part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The region includes the City of Townsville as well as numerous low-density coastal settlements such as Saunders Beach, Bushland Beach and Cungulla.

The name of this region adequately describes an area sometimes referred to as ‘the dry tropics’ as a result of the low rainfall encountered. It is a dynamic coast, subject to both long- and short-term changes as a result of cyclones and normal wind and wave action. The coast is comprised of beaches, beach ridges, mangrove estuaries, saltpans and brackish coastal swamps.

Of particular note is the complex system of wetlands, including mangrove forests in estuarine areas, samphire communities associated with saltpans, and waterlilies, sedges and grasses and paperbark forests associated with freshwater wetlands. In recognition of the region’s important wetlands, the Dry Tropical Coast boasts the Bowling Green Bay National Park, part of which is listed under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance. The southern section also contains regionally significant stands of ‘beach scrub’, equally important to the biodiversity of the region.

### Coastal resources

The Dry Tropical Coast has a range of significant conservation values including seagrass and mangrove communities, fringing reefs, marine turtle nesting areas, fish nurseries, and seabird, wader and raptor

habitats. The intertidal and subtidal seagrass beds and mangrove-lined estuaries of Cleveland and Bowling Green Bays possess extensive baitfish grounds, providing a feeding and breeding habitat for commercially and recreationally important fish species and other rare and threatened marine life, such as dugongs and marine turtles. The Bowling Green Bay wetlands seasonally support more than 20,000 waterfowl and almost half of the 244 bird species known to visit the area breed in these wetlands.

Vegetation characteristic of the region includes woodlands of ironbarks (*Eucalyptus melanophloia*, *E. crebra*), poplar box and Browns box (*E. populnea*, *E. brownii*) and brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*), blackwood (*A. argyrodendron*) and gidgee (*A. cambagei*).

The Dry Tropical Coast possesses a range of significant Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (refer policy 2.5.1 for examples) and other cultural heritage sites of significance. Important cultural heritage values are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, coastal navigation, coastal shipping, maritime disasters, quarantine practices, provision of port facilities, the establishment of Aboriginal reserves, fishing, mining, pastoralism, 19<sup>th</sup> century and World War II coastal defence, tourism and holiday resorts.

The Palm Island Group has many sites of heritage value, including a stone hut at Little Pioneer Bay, buildings and graves remaining from the leper colony on Fantome Island, and the remains of a shepherd's cottage and World War II installations at Yankees Jetty. A number of shipwrecks have been identified in the waters off Magnetic Island and the ruins of World War II coastal defence installations can be seen at the forts on the island. Other historic shipwrecks include the *Yongala*, located 11km off Cape Bowling Green. The South Bank area of Cleveland Bay contains Chinese market gardens, considered to be of major historical significance to north Queensland.

The Dry Tropical Coast supports a variety of land uses including tourism, aquaculture, agriculture and industry. The region is also extremely important for commercial and recreational fishing, and other outdoor recreation and sporting activities. Townsville is a city of regional significance because of its service industries, industrial growth, defence establishments and port. Cities and towns associated with the Dry Tropical Coast also have strong links with the mining industry as logistical centres for mining operations and service centres.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Brigalow Belt North (subhumid to semi-arid)
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Lucinda-Mackay Coast

### **Existing management and administration**

The local government areas of Townsville and Thuringowa have undergone a subregional planning process, resulting in the preparation of the Townsville-Thuringowa Strategy Plan. This plan is being implemented through a range of mechanisms and processes, for example by informing the development of planning schemes and other natural resource management plans and strategies.

Additionally, there are three sub-regional catchment plans that have been developed as integrated catchment management initiatives. The completed plans are the Townsville/Thuringowa Coastal Plains plan, and the Burdekin Rangelands and Burdekin-Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management strategies. The Burdekin Rangelands and Burdekin-Bowen Floodplains plans received interim endorsement from the Queensland Landcare and Catchment Management Council in late 2000, while the Townsville/Thuringowa Coastal Plains plan is awaiting final endorsement from the Council. A Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Strategy is also being prepared for release in 2001 to coordinate the delivery of these strategies.

The Councils of Townsville City, Thuringowa City, Burdekin and Bowen have existing planning schemes and are required to prepare new planning schemes under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003.

There are a number of Indigenous Traditional Owner groups in the region, including Bindal and Juru in the Townsville/Burdekin area, Manburra in Palm Island area, Nywaigi in the Lucinda/Rollingstone area, and Ghia in the Bowen area. An Aboriginal council manages the Palm Island Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) area. Bwcolman are a group of Aboriginal peoples with historical associations to the Palm Island area.

### **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ future management of significant and extensive wetland systems, including the Bowling Green Bay Ramsar site;
- ◆ siting of industrial land for future growth and expansion;
- ◆ expansion of the Townsville Port and identifying sustainable and appropriately placed road and rail access to the port;
- ◆ industrialisation of the region while ensuring that the necessary environmental protection measures are in place to protect the region's natural values, including breeding/nursery grounds;
- ◆ management of aquaculture developments;
- ◆ effective salinity and water management in intensive agricultural industries in the Burdekin;
- ◆ urban development along the coast;
- ◆ protection and conservation of rare and threatened species (dugongs, migratory wader birds, waterfowl and various species of marine turtle);
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ storm tide threat and cyclone impacts;
- ◆ development of other agricultural industries such as horticulture;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items);
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items);
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils; and
- ◆ impacts (health, safety and environmental) of defence-related activities (e.g. bombing exercises).





## Region: Whitsunday Coast

### Description

The Whitsunday Coast extends from the northern boundary of Whitsunday Shire to the southern boundary of Sarina Shire. The coastline is adjacent to and includes part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and State and Commonwealth marine parks. There are approximately 200 islands along this stretch of coast, some of which are popular tourist destinations. The main coastal settlements include Airlie Beach, Cannonvale, Midge Point, Seaforth, Mackay, Sarina Beach and Grasstree. Sarina and Proserpine are two of the larger settlements inland from the coast.

The mainland coast is characterised by rocky headlands such as Cape Gloucester, Cape Hillsborough, Cape Palmerston, and the coastal ranges of Dryander and Conway National Parks, and the Clark Range. The region has numerous sandy beaches, as well as sheltered embayments that provide protected anchorages and support extensive intertidal wetlands, such as at Edgecombe Bay, Repulse Bay, Sand Bay, Sarina Inlet and Ince Bay.

The intertidal wetland systems in the southern portion of the region are composed of extensive mudflats, mangroves and seagrass beds. There are also very large freshwater wetlands adjacent to intertidal wetlands in the Repulse Bay area. The offshore islands are distinctive because of rugged landforms, varied geology, vegetation communities, sandy beaches and fringing reefs.

### Coastal resources

The offshore islands and marine areas form part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Edgecombe Bay, Proserpine–Goorganga Plain, Sand Bay, Sandringham Bay and the Sarina Inlet–Ince Bay aggregation are all listed as nationally important wetlands. Each of these wetlands is composed of extensive mudflats, mangroves, saltpan and seagrass areas providing habitat for shorebirds, estuarine crocodiles, marine turtles, the false water-rat (*Xeromys myoides*), dugongs and commercially important marine and estuarine species. The Proserpine–Goorganga Plain wetland is part of a coastal floodplain and is notable for the extensive areas of seasonally inundated grassland.

The mainland beaches in the southern portion of the district have significant populations of nesting flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*) and the offshore islands also provide nesting and feeding areas for flatback and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). A number of dugong protection areas have been declared, including Newry Region (St Helens Bay area) and Ince Bay. The waters adjacent to the Whitsunday Islands attract humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) during their normal migration from southern waters and it is believed that the whales calve in this area.

Gloucester Island and the coastal ranges in the Airlie Beach area are critical habitat for the Proserpine rock-wallaby (*Petrogale persephone*). Isolated populations of other species occur on offshore islands, such as koalas on St Bees Island.

Important vegetation communities both in the coastal area and on the islands include araucarian vine thickets, beach scrubs, lowland rainforest, melaleuca wetlands, eucalypt forests with grassy understorey and tussock grasslands. The mix of plant species suggests that this area is a transition zone between southern and northern species.

The region includes many places that are of significance to Indigenous Traditional Owners (refer policy 2.5.1 for examples). Important cultural heritage values are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, coastal navigation, pastoralism, the sugar industry and South Sea Islander immigration, fishing, and tourism.

Coastal population density varies from unpopulated areas to coastal settlements with a high visitation rate. Mackay is an important regional centre servicing the agricultural and mining communities, a coal terminal and port, a large commercial fishing fleet and some tourist operations. Airlie Beach is the focus of the tourism industry for use of the Whitsunday Islands and for many tourist development proposals.

The Whitsunday area is one of the major tourism nodes within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, composed of island resorts such as Hayman, Lindeman and Hamilton Islands, mainland tourist development and marine-based operations. Mackay also attracts visitation and is the base for several reef tourism operations. Recreational use of the coastline and marine areas is significant along most of the Whitsunday-Sarina coast.

Other significant industries include commercial fishing (Mackay, in conjunction with Bowen to the north, supports the largest line fishing fleet on the Queensland coast), agriculture, mining (inland), and coal terminals and port facilities. Hay Point is the second largest tonnage port and the largest coal port in Australia.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Central Queensland Coast
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Lucinda-Mackay Coast and Shoalwater Coast

### **Existing management and administration**

The local governments in the region with coastal boundaries include Whitsunday, Mackay City and Sarina. Most of the marine area in the district is in either State marine park (Townsville/Whitsunday) or Commonwealth marine park (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including southern regions of the Central Section and northern reaches of the Mackay/Capricorn Section), and there are also several coastal national parks. The associated marine park zoning plans and management plans (i.e. the Whitsundays Plan of Management, and the Strategic Plan for Management of the Whitsunday Marine and National Parks) and the Great Barrier Reef 25 Year Strategic Plan will be considered in the regional coastal planning process.

Another relevant regional planning process to be considered includes the Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Regional Planning Project 2015 (WHAM 2015), which will lead to the development of a Regional Framework for Growth Management and eventually, a WHAM 2015 Regional Plan.

The Councils of Whitsunday Shire, Mackay City and Sarina Shire have existing planning schemes and are required to prepare new planning schemes under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003.

### **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ threats to water quality from agricultural, aquaculture, urban, tourism and vessel-based sources;
- ◆ loss and fragmentation of terrestrial and wetland habitat, particularly critical habitat for dugongs, shorebirds, turtles, whales, commercially important marine and estuarine species, false water-rats and macropods;
- ◆ conflicts between various types of use (e.g. fishing and tourism);
- ◆ expansion of residential development along the coastline, with associated environmental, anthropogenic and domestic animal impacts on natural coastal values;
- ◆ mangrove dieback at the mouth of the Pioneer River;
- ◆ maintenance of a range of visitor experiences and use opportunities;
- ◆ impacts of high visitation (e.g. anchor damage, disturbance to wildlife);
- ◆ maintenance of coastal and island vegetation communities;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ the high risk of tropical cyclone impacts and storm tide inundation of low-lying residential areas;

- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ beach recession at Mackay, especially at Blacks Beach and Harbour Beach north of Mackay Port;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ protection of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (e.g. sacred sites) from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items).



## Region: Capricorn Coast

### Description

The Capricorn Coast region extends from the northern boundary of Broadsound Shire to the southern boundary of Fitzroy Shire. The main inland centre within the region is Rockhampton. The main coastal settlements include Emu Park, Yeppoon and St Lawrence.

The coastline includes a diverse range of landforms ranging from relatively high-energy sandy coasts in the southern Shoalwater Peninsula and Keppel Islands, to extensive sheltered embayments and estuarine areas. The more sheltered areas

contain extensive mangrove stands, mudflats and seagrass beds. Scenic rocky headlands are well represented by sites such as Double Head, Cape Townsend, Cape Manifold and many islands of the Keppel Group.

The largely undeveloped nature of much of the region's coastline provides an important contrast to most of the more developed southern coastal regions of Queensland.

### Coastal resources

The Shoalwater Peninsula has received national recognition for both its natural and cultural heritage values, being the focus of a major Commonwealth Commission of Inquiry in 1993–94, which found that Shoalwater Bay should remain a military training area, with certain access rights provided to Indigenous groups and the conservation of natural and cultural values assured. The region includes significant

freshwater wetlands, seagrass beds, tidal mudflats and mangrove habitats supporting substantial populations of dugongs, marine turtles, shorebirds and commercially important marine and estuarine species. Shoalwater and Corio Bays are listed under the Ramsar Convention and comprise the southernmost wilderness area on the east coast.

The Fitzroy River, which enters the coast at the southern extent of the region contributes extensive riverine floodplains and tidal wetlands to the landscape. The Fitzroy River plays a major role in the features of the coast, especially during flood events. On these occasions large volumes of sediment can be deposited up to 30km north and east of the estuary, having a dramatic impact on the coastline, fringing reefs and islands.

The Byfield area, to the south of the Shoalwater training area, has an extensive parabolic dune system. This landform offers diverse vegetation, including heathland and stringybark woodlands and significant freshwater wetland habitat is situated behind the dunes draining to Corio Bay.

Indigenous Traditional Owner and South Sea Islander cultural resources are common throughout the region (refer policy 2.5.1 for examples) and many are under threat due to the pace of development. Important cultural heritage values and resources are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, coastal navigation, pastoralism, mining, the sugar industry, tourism and holiday resorts.

Use of the coast varies greatly within the region. In areas such as Yeppoon and Emu Park there is a high level of development, with residential and commercial facilities fronting the beaches and foreshores in some areas. A major nature-based tourism industry exists in the region, with specific emphasis on the area just north of Yeppoon and the Keppel Islands. Experiences offered include recreational fishing, scuba diving and camping. A local resort includes built wetlands that provide a supratidal waterbird habitat.

There is also considerable recreational use of waterways, bays and open waters. In the less developed areas, the prominent landforms and waters along the coast are often associated with recreational or conservation values that are highly regarded by the community.

Beef cattle grazing is the dominant rural land use, with some horticulture (e.g. pineapples, tropical fruits) occurring near Yeppoon. Commercial fishing targeting crabs, prawns, scallops, and barramundi is a significant industry. Port Alma has facilities for the export of local beef and salt from nearby salt-production facilities and the import of materials for explosives manufacture.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Central Queensland Coast and Brigalow Belt North
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Shoalwater Coast

### **Existing management and administration**

The local governments in the region are the Fitzroy, Livingstone, Rockhampton and Broadsound Shire Councils. They have existing planning schemes and are required to prepare new planning schemes under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003.

There are numerous national and marine parks within the region, including those nestled within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, such as the Commonwealth's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Mackay/Capricorn Section) and the Mackay/Capricorn State Marine Park. Relevant marine park management plans to be considered include the Mackay/Capricorn Section Zoning Plan (Commonwealth), Mackay/Capricorn Marine Park Zoning Plan (State) and the Great Barrier Reef 25 Year Strategic Plan.

Other relevant regional management plans and planning processes include the 1997 Coastal and Island Land Use Study of State Lands, to define appropriate use of coastal state lands; the Broadsound and Sarina Coastal Management Study; the Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay Regional Planning Project 2015 (WHAM 2015); the Central Queensland Outdoor Recreation Demand Study; and CQ: a New Millennium, which commenced in early 2000.

## Key coastal management issues

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ threats to water quality from agricultural and urban sources;
- ◆ maintenance of dugong habitat and populations in Shoalwater Bay;
- ◆ the effects of ponded pasture on coastal habitats and physical coastal processes;
- ◆ resolving conflicts within multi-use strategies for coastal-based tourism industries or other user groups;
- ◆ expansion of residential development along the coastline, with associated adverse impacts on coastal resources;
- ◆ loss and fragmentation of terrestrial and wetland habitat;
- ◆ sustainable extraction of water from coastal streams and underground aquifers;
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ loss of natural habitats and cultural sites due to rural expansion;
- ◆ cyclone impacts and storm tide inundation;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to and utilisation of cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items).



## Region: Curtis Coast

### Description

The Curtis Coast region is situated on the central coast of Queensland, immediately south of the Tropic of Capricorn and about 500km north of Brisbane. The geographical scope is defined by Raglan Creek (Fitzroy River) to the north, Colosseum Inlet to the south and the Capricorn Bunker Group to the east. The landward boundary comprises the coastal zones of the Calliope and Gladstone local government areas. Major towns in the region are Gladstone, Tannum Sands and Boyne Island.

The region is one of Queensland's and Australia's most important industrial centres and therefore has significant economic values, as well as high conservation values and extensive tourism and recreational use.

An important feature of the region, Facing Island, provides shelter to Port Curtis, while Curtis Island has an important role as a major geomorphic feature influencing tides, wave energy at the coastline and vegetation of the Curtis Coast.

### **Coastal resources**

The Curtis Coast contains relatively undisturbed terrestrial and marine environments along its length. Areas within Gladstone are allocated for substantial industrial development of state and national economic significance. Gladstone has urban and industrial infrastructure and port facilities that are available in few other locations on the Queensland coast.

The Curtis Coast is diverse, ranging from a network of interconnecting mangrove estuaries to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. It is biologically rich due to the overlap between tropical and temperate zones. It contains a high proportion of the state's animal species (birds 46 percent, mammals 33 percent, reptiles 16 percent and amphibians 20 percent). Approximately 30 plant species are at either their southern or northern distribution limit. Many individual species are currently listed as rare or threatened under Queensland legislation or are listed on international agreements.

The Capricorn-Bunker group supports internationally significant breeding populations of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Flatback turtles also nest on the beaches of Curtis Island and Facing Island. It has globally significant pisonia forests, and major populations of wedgetail shearwaters and black noddies.

The region includes many places that are of significance to Indigenous Traditional Owners (refer policy 2.5.1 for examples). Important cultural heritage values for this area are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, early colonial settlement, coastal navigation, maritime disasters, pastoralism, heavy industry and tourism.

The region is a major centre for industry, supporting some of the world's largest aluminium, cement and chemical-processing plants, together with major coal-exporting and power-generating industries. The region supports a permanent population of some 38,000 people based around industrial development in Gladstone. The economic catalyst is the Port of Gladstone, which annually handles in excess of 50 million tonnes of product generating over \$3.4 billion in exports. This equates to approximately 4.4 percent of Australia's and 20 percent of Queensland's total export revenue.

Some of the region's other major commercial activities are tourism and commercial fishing associated with the Great Barrier Reef.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — Brigalow Belt North, Brigalow Belt South and South-east Queensland
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Shoalwater Coast

### **Existing management and administration**

The region comprises a range of national parks together with part of the Mackay/Capricorn section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. While Commonwealth, State and local governments all play a role in the management of the region, it is the local governments of Gladstone City and Calliope Shire and the Gladstone Port Authority that have key planning roles. All have had strategic plans in place since 1991/92. The Councils of Gladstone City and Calliope are required to prepare new planning schemes under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003.

The Curtis Coast is subject to a relatively complex set of administrative arrangements involving Commonwealth, State and local governments, government-owned corporations, industry, community groups and research organisations. This has led to a range of strategies and projects being developed that are relevant to this coastal planning process, such as the Gladstone Harbour Protection and Enhancement Strategy, the Gladstone Sustainability Project, and CQ: A New Millennium. Additionally, with both State

and Commonwealth marine parks and protected areas in the region, there are a range of zoning and management plans that need to be considered.

There are currently three Indigenous Traditional Owner claimant groups in the region. These groups have presented a native title claim as one entity over this area, which is rich in traditional cultural resources.

The effectiveness of current management activity could be greatly enhanced by an ongoing commitment to a well-defined, structured and coordinated management approach from all relevant agencies. The regional coastal plan will be part of a package aimed at providing solutions to coastal management issues in this region.

### **Key coastal management issues**

The key coastal management issue affecting the Curtis Coast is the long-term management of the Port of Gladstone to avoid any adverse effects on relatively natural coastal environments to the north, south and east of the associated urban and industrial development. Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ maintenance of water quality;
- ◆ achieving coordinated management of coastal areas;
- ◆ research and information;
- ◆ planning and management of public access to the coast;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ conserving coastal wetlands and habitat for significant species;
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ protection of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (e.g. sacred sites) from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in conducting Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resource research;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items).





## Region: Wide Bay Coast

### Description

The Wide Bay Coast extends from the northern boundary of Miriam Vale Shire to the southern boundary of Noosa Shire. Major inland centres within the region include Bundaberg, Maryborough and Gympie. The main coastal settlements include Agnes Water, the Town of 1770, Moore Park, Burnett Heads, Bargara, Woodgate, Burrum Heads, Hervey Bay, Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay and Noosa.

The coastline includes landforms ranging from high-energy surf beaches to extensive sheltered embayments and estuarine areas. Large dunal formations are represented by the Cooloola area and Fraser Island, while areas such as Tin Can Bay, Great Sandy Strait and Hervey Bay contain extensive mangrove stands, mudflats and seagrass beds. Scenic rocky headlands are also well represented by sites such as Round-Hill Head, Bustard Head, Burnett Heads, Elliott Heads, Indian Head and Waddy Point.

### Coastal resources

Environmentally significant land and coastal waters comprise a large portion of the region. This includes the Fraser Island and Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas, internationally recognised for their wide range of natural and cultural heritage values.

Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, supports rainforest, sclerophyll forest, freshwater lakes, coastal heathland and sand dunes. It has huge reserves of fresh underground water and characteristic window and barrage dune lakes. The island forms part of the Great Sandy Management Region, which includes the Cooloola sand mass, a major portion of the Noosa River catchment, Noosa North Shore, and the waters of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait. Up to 500,000 people visit the Great Sandy Region annually, which, together with other coastal waters, supports an expanding recreational and commercial fishing industry. Many of the Great Sandy Region's bays and estuaries provide important marine nursery grounds.

The Hervey Bay and Cooloola areas include significant seagrass, tidal mudflat and mangrove habitats maintaining substantial populations of dugongs, marine turtles, shorebirds and commercially important marine and estuarine fisheries species. The region is also a vital transit point on the migratory path of humpback whales.

Mon Repos and other beaches on the Woongarra Coast, and the northern part of Fraser Island, are major nesting sites for marine turtles, including loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*). This stretch of the coast includes fringing coral reef, offering one of Australia's best shore-based scuba diving and snorkelling sites.

The region's northern coastlines are largely undeveloped and include the Baffle Creek system, which has been identified under the Wild Rivers Project as one of the last remaining river systems in south-east Queensland to be free of significant impoundments. These systems support significant fish habitats and include more than 90 species of fish, 50 of which have major commercial value.

Use of the coast varies greatly within the region. In areas such as Hervey Bay there is a high level of development, with residential, commercial and industrial facilities fronting the beaches and foreshores in some areas. Along with this large population living close to the coast, there is considerable recreational use of the waterways, bay and ocean waters. In the less-developed areas, the prominent landforms and waters along the coast are often associated with recreational or conservation values that are highly regarded by the community.

Significant Indigenous Traditional Owner and South Sea Islander cultural resources are common throughout the region (refer policy 2.5.1 for examples). Important cultural heritage values are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, early Aboriginal-European contact,

coastal navigation, coastal shipping, timber-getting, mining, pastoralism, the sugar industry, tourism and holiday resorts, and the positioning of Aboriginal missions and reserves.

A major nature-based tourism industry exists in the region, with specific emphasis on Fraser Island, whale/dolphin watching, marine turtle nesting and recreational boating and fishing activities. Centres for tourism, including reef access in the region, include Bundaberg, the Town of 1770 and Hervey Bay. Other significant industries include commercial fishing, grazing, sugar cane farming, commercial forestry and the Port of Bundaberg.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — South-east Queensland
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Shoalwater Coast and Tweed-Moreton

### **Existing management and administration**

The local governments in the region are the Noosa, Cooloola, Tiaro, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Isis, Burnett, Bundaberg and Miriam Vale Councils. The Wide Bay 2020 regional planning process established a recognised forum, the Wide Bay Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC), for assessment, consideration and advice to all levels of government, business, industry and the community on matters of regional significance. In 1998, the RPAC released the Wide Bay Regional Growth Management Framework (RGMF) as the principal regional strategy for guiding growth in the Wide Bay region, which contains policy principles and actions relating to managing the coastal environment.

Existing planning schemes are required to be replaced by new planning schemes under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003. Maryborough City Council has fulfilled this obligation.

The region includes part of the Mackay/Capricorn Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, State Marine Parks such as Hervey Bay and Woongarra, and numerous national parks, which include island parks such as Lady Musgrave and Lady Elliott Islands. Management of Fraser Island and the Cooloola area is influenced by the World Heritage Convention listing and the Great Sandy Region Management Plan. Development Control Plans have been prepared for Fraser Island and Rainbow Beach, which are awaiting approval. These plans will contribute to the maintenance of the Region's natural and cultural values, and provide greater certainty for landholders and industry.

### **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ loss of natural habitats and cultural sites due to urban and rural expansion;
- ◆ adverse impact of urban development on the amenity of natural coastal landscapes and on beach protection zones;
- ◆ beach erosion due to natural events and built structures;
- ◆ impact of marine infrastructure such as marinas and dredging;
- ◆ deterioration of water quality in some estuaries due to land uses in the catchments;
- ◆ water extraction from sand masses;
- ◆ loss of seagrass beds, particularly in Hervey Bay, due to terrestrial runoff and siltation;
- ◆ impacts of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ resolving conflicts within multi-use strategies for coastal-based tourism industries or other user groups;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ protection of regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;

- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ protection of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (e.g. sacred sites) from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with historical associations within the region may have aspirations to be involved in the management of cultural resources;
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items).



## Region: South-east Queensland Coast

### Description

The South-east Queensland Coast extends from the northern boundary of Maroochy Shire to the Queensland-New South Wales border. In June 1999 the population of south-east Queensland was approximately 2.6 million people. The SEQ Regional Framework for Growth Management 2001 (RFGM) provides a framework for planning for an estimated regional population of between 2.8 and 3.4 million people by the year 2016. Twenty-seven percent of Australia's estimated population growth between 1996 and 2016 is likely to occur in south-east Queensland, equivalent to New South Wales' entire share of growth over the same period.

While these estimated figures represent the region as a whole, the potential impacts of human use on coastal values is significant. As the capital city, Brisbane is the largest urban centre and will remain as the dominant centre in the region. Urban centres and towns of smaller scale are located along the coast, particularly in the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast areas. These include Maroochydoore, Caloundra City, Southport and Surfers Paradise.

The region has a subtropical climate and a complex coastline including wetlands, offshore sandy islands, a large bay, long sandy beaches, rocky headlands, tidal mudflats and large estuaries. The coastal plain is relatively broad and flat, with undulating hills rising to mountains behind Brisbane and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Eleven major river systems and their tributaries traverse the coastal plain and form estuaries to Moreton Bay and the open coast. The region has approximately 750km of coastal shoreline and 467km of estuarine foreshore.

Development and human activity are extensive throughout the region, and are often concentrated in coastal areas. Large sections of the coast are now densely settled, the land uses comprising residential, commercial, industrial, rural and agricultural areas, with some remaining natural parcels and corridors.

## **Coastal resources**

The coastal and estuarine habitats of the region contain ecosystems of significant ecological values, ranging from sandy ocean beaches to saltmarsh and mangrove communities, rocky reefs, calm shallow bays and open ocean environments. Great biodiversity and abundance are present in these highly productive subtropical ecosystems.

Seagrass, tidal mudflats and mangroves are significant for the maintenance of coastal processes and substantial populations of dugongs, marine turtles and shorebirds found in these habitats. The natural values of Moreton Bay are internationally recognised by the Ramsar Convention. Moreton Bay was declared a marine park in 1993 and the Marine Park (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan was declared in 1997. National parks, fisheries habitat reserves and other protected areas are present within the region's coastal zone.

The region's riverine and coastal resources are recognised as being important for economic uses such as port operations, extractive industries, recreational and commercial fishing, transport, tourism and boating. As a result of the scale of past development, most of the region's coastal habitats — most notably coastal lowlands, mangrove, paperbark and saltmarsh/claypan communities — have been disturbed by human impacts.

The coastal values of the region provide a focus for many cultural, sporting and outdoor recreation activities, particularly in Moreton Bay and the surf beaches of the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Areas of historical and cultural significance range from individual heritage sites to beaches. The coast is highly valued by residents and visitors, particularly for the recreational opportunities it offers.

Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources and other cultural heritage values are widespread throughout the region and are threatened by the pace of development. Indigenous Traditional Owners are represented by many clan groups, and have diverse cultural resources (refer policy 2.5.1 for examples). Important cultural heritage values are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, early penal and colonial settlement, provision of quarantine facilities, coastal navigation, timber-getting, fishing and oyster industries, pastoralism, the early sugar industry, the provision of port facilities, 19<sup>th</sup> century and World War II coastal defence, tourism and holiday resorts.

Operations at the Port of Brisbane had a turnover of approximately \$12 billion in the 1998–99 financial year. The Moreton Bay region produces almost 10 percent of the state's commercial fishing product (\$33 million wholesale) and recreational fishers spend approximately \$120 million annually. Recreational boating (\$25 million) and extractive industry (\$7 million) targeting marine sands are other significant economic values. The region's coastal resources, as well as the activities and uses they indirectly support, form a vital component of the region's economic wellbeing.

Population growth associated with European settlement has seen the large-scale use of the region's natural resources. Many of these resources are limited in biophysical extent and may not be immediately renewable or may be non-renewable. Much of the coastal strip and remaining areas of coastal open space are subject to development pressure. River systems located on the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast areas have been the focus of canal and residential waterfront development.

Biogeographic description:

- ◆ Terrestrial bioregion — South-east Queensland
- ◆ Marine bioregion — Tweed–Moreton

## **Existing management and administration**

The region has a well-developed and relatively complex planning framework across State Government agencies, local governments, the community and private sectors. The local governments encompassed within the region's coastal zone are Brisbane, Logan, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Redcliffe and Caloundra Cities, and Pine Rivers, Redland, Beaudesert, Caboolture and Maroochy Shires.

The Councils have existing planning schemes and are required to prepare new planning schemes under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* by 30 March 2003. Maroochy Shire Council and Brisbane City Council were the first local governments in the region to fulfil this requirement.

The SEQ 2001 regional planning project was initiated in 1990 as a coordinated regional planning process to deal with impacts associated with rapid growth in the region. This was the first formal effort to coordinate a continuing regional planning framework and evaluation within Queensland, with the South-east Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils being established as a peak regional planning body comprising State and local government representatives. In 1995, the SEQ 2001 Regional Framework for Growth Management (RFGM) was released to guide regional growth, with priority actions given for coastal management.

The South-east Queensland Regional Coastal Management Plan is identified as a priority action of the RFGM relating to the conservation of the natural environment. Other objectives of the RFGM relevant to coastal planning, which may be addressed indirectly through the regional coastal plan, relate to natural economic resources, water quality, regional landscape, urban growth, liveability, cultural development and Indigenous involvement.

Other major regional projects include the South-east Queensland Regional Nature Conservation Strategy, the South-east Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Study and the Strategic Guide to Natural Resource Management in South-east Queensland.

Documents, strategies and research outcomes to be considered in the regional coastal planning process include:

- ◆ the Marine Park (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 1997;
- ◆ Coastal Wetlands of South-east Queensland Study;
- ◆ outcomes of the North Stradbroke Island (Minjerrabah) Planning and Management Study;
- ◆ draft Gold Coast Waterways Management Plan;
- ◆ draft Southern Moreton Bay Islands Land Use and Development Strategy;
- ◆ Brisbane Gateway Ports Area Strategy;
- ◆ SEQ Cultural Development Strategy;
- ◆ SEQ Regional Landscape Strategy;
- ◆ Guidelines for Indigenous and Historical Cultural Heritage Management;
- ◆ the Northern Caloundra Coastal Protection and Management Plan;
- ◆ the South-east Queensland Outdoor Recreation Demand Study;
- ◆ Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership; and
- ◆ integrated catchment management strategies developed by catchment groups and local governments.

### **Key coastal management issues**

Important coastal management issues include:

- ◆ maintaining and enhancing coastal habitats (especially wetlands) and significant species;
- ◆ planning for and managing shoreline erosion and coastal hazards;
- ◆ maintaining and enhancing water quality, including management of underground water extraction, provision of environmental flows and management of acid sulfate soils;
- ◆ maintaining and enhancing coastal landscapes;
- ◆ recognising coastal areas of strategic economic and social state significance, e.g. port land;
- ◆ recognising the environmental and social limits of unsustainable economic growth;
- ◆ planning for and managing fish stocks, aquaculture and mariculture activities;
- ◆ planning for and managing existing and new canals and dry land marinas;

- ◆ planning for and managing extractive industry and dredging;
- ◆ planning for and managing public access, including roads and esplanades;
- ◆ improving coordination of planning and management for urban growth and associated uses affecting the region;
- ◆ protecting regionally appropriate sport and outdoor recreation resources;
- ◆ ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, including consideration of impacts and capacity to contribute to the economy and quality of life;
- ◆ improving coordination of, and access to, relevant coastal data and information;
- ◆ ongoing resolution of native title (land and sea) issues;
- ◆ recognition of Aboriginal Council jurisdictions;
- ◆ recognition of community-based land and/or sea management organisations;
- ◆ ongoing involvement of Indigenous Traditional Owners in management, planning and development, particularly during processes affecting land tenure designation or redesignation, including coordination of mechanisms by relevant agencies for involving Indigenous Traditional Owners;
- ◆ protection of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (e.g. sacred sites) from inappropriate access or use;
- ◆ ongoing recognition of Indigenous Traditional Owner traditions and continuing rights and interests in coastal management (e.g. management of fishing activities, coordination of and access to scientific and research information, repatriation of remains), including Indigenous Traditional Owner access to cultural resources (e.g. traditional food for ceremonial purposes);
- ◆ recognising the importance to Indigenous Traditional Owners of maintaining management connectivity with upper reaches of catchments;
- ◆ preservation of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources from inappropriate access or use, including appropriate management of Indigenous Traditional Owner knowledge and information;
- ◆ coordination of management between relevant agencies, including Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies, and Aboriginal councils;
- ◆ maintenance of Indigenous Traditional Owner cultural resources (values, places and items); and
- ◆ identification and maintenance of cultural heritage resources (values, places and items).