



# COWLEY BEACH

## COWLEY BEACH COASTAL AREA

Cowley Beach is a small residential community located south of Innisfail between Double Point and Liverpool Creek fronting a 7.5-kilometre-long stretch of unspoilt beach. The Australian Defence Force's Cowley Beach Training Area is located north of the township. Cowley Beach is unsewered and largely surrounded by environmental reserves and rural land parcels. Key community assets include a caravan park and community hall centred around a beachfront boat ramp. Most of the residential area is located north of the boat ramp.



Figure 9. Cowley Beach Locality

## OUR VULNERABILITIES AND RISKS

Close to the boat ramp, Cowley Hall (community centre), the caravan park, local roads and drainage infrastructure are at risk from erosion under all climates, with sea level rise affecting the caravan park site notably by 2100. There are a small number of residential land parcels immediately north of the boat ramp at risk from erosion under the present climate, where the coastal dune buffer is notably narrower, and the road is close to the existing beachfront. Risks to other areas such as rural and environmental management and conservation land mainly result from sea level rise.

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY?




The Cowley Beach community values the natural coastal environment and scenery of the area combined with the ability to participate in many activities along the foreshore and in the water. Based on your feedback, the most important features to protect are the existing vegetation and vegetated spaces such as parks while ensuring these spaces remain useable.



## OUR ADAPTATION PATHWAY

Table 6 outlines the adaptation pathway and triggers for Cowley Beach in response to local coastal hazards and risks over time under a changing climate.

**Table 6** Cowley Beach Adaptation Pathway

LOCATION	ADAPTATION ACTIONS	<b>SHORT TERM</b>  (Present coastal hazards risks)	<b>MEDIUM TERM</b>  (Coastal hazard risks around 2050 (0.3m sea level rise))	<b>LONG TERM</b>  (Coastal hazard risks around 2100 (0.8m sea level rise))
<b>ALL AREAS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandate minimum floor levels for new development</li> <li>Ongoing active dune and habitat management</li> </ul>	●————→		
<b>SETTLEMENT AREA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community infrastructure planning and management of park, community and road assets</li> </ul>	●————→		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore incentives to encourage residents to relocate or rebuild outside of hazard areas</li> <li>Explore landward relocation of community hall and caravan park</li> </ul>		●————→	
<b>MILITARY TRAINING AREA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing active dune and habitat management</li> <li>Relocate important buildings on dune further landward</li> </ul>	●————→		