



MOURILYAN HARBOUR AND ETTY BAY

MOURILYAN HARBOUR AND ETTY BAY COASTAL AREA

Etty Bay Beach is nestled along a narrow coastal plain between the Moresby Range and the Coral Sea. An iconic example of where the “rainforest meets the reef”, it is a popular destination for tourists and the local community and includes a surf lifesaving club and caravan park. Mourilyan Harbour sits near the mouth of the Moresby River and is an important natural deep water harbour containing port facilities largely catering for sugar exports. The Harbour also contains a popular public boat ramp and marine rescue facilities.



Figure 10. Mourilyan Harbour and Etty Bay Locality

OUR VULNERABILITIES AND RISKS

By 2100, sections of the cane railway network and the adjacent road access to Mourilyan Harbour are at high risk from erosion and storm tide where they pass close to the bank of estuarine waterways. At ETTY Bay, storm tide inundation and associated erosion will impact the surf lifesaving club, caravan park and sewer pump station. Sea level rise will expose more than 1,100 hectares of rural land in ETTY Bay, west of the Moresby Range by 2100 and will also impact adjacent rural residential land parcels.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Mourilyan Harbour and ETTY Bay are used by the community to access the reef and waterways, enjoy the natural coastal environment and scenery, participate in recreational activities along the foreshore and attend social events with friends and family.

Based on your feedback, the key community values for this area and the most important features to protect are:

- The harbour (including infrastructure)
- Recreational amenities (e.g fishing and picnic areas)
- The beach
- Cassowary habitat

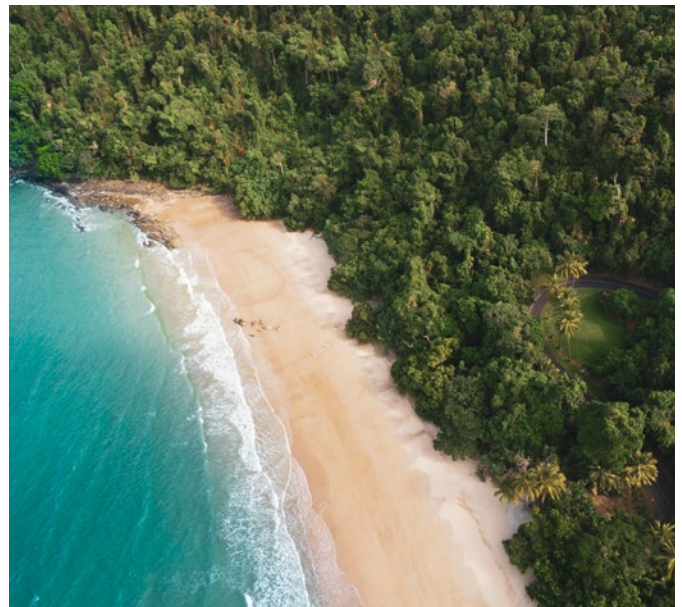





Image credit: Tourism Tropical North Queensland

OUR ADAPTATION PATHWAY

Table 7 outlines the adaptation pathway and triggers for Mourilyan Harbour and Etty Bay in response to local coastal hazards and risks over time and a changing climate.

- Minimum floor levels should be mandated for new development in all areas.
- The hazard resilience of infrastructure at Mourilyan Harbour should be improved through asset renewal.
- The open coast of Etty Bay will require ongoing foreshore management, relocation of key buildings and potentially occasional beach scraping.
- In the longer term, Etty Bay Road will need to be raised to increase resilience to the 2100 climate.

Table 7 Mourilyan Harbour and Etty Bay Adaptation Pathway

LOCATION	ADAPTATION ACTIONS	SHORT TERM  (Present coastal hazards risks)	MEDIUM TERM  (Coastal hazard risks around 2050 (0.3m sea level rise))	LONG TERM  (Coastal hazard risks around 2100 (0.8m sea level rise))
ALL AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate minimum floor levels for new development 	●————→	————→	————→
MOURILYAN HARBOUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade hazard resilience of Coastguard and boat ramp facilities as part of asset renewal • Localised works involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raising of existing seawall crest levels - scour protection along access road / estuary interface - land level raising (coinciding with asset renewal) 			●————→
ETTY BAY (Open Coast)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing active dune and habitat management • Relocate or consolidate key buildings further landward where practicable (aligned with planned upgrades if possible) • Explore progressive downsizing of caravan park to accommodate shoreline migration • Localised beach scraping as required 	●————→	————→	————→
ETTY BAY (West of Moresby Range)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept loss of rural land 		●————→	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise Etty Bay Road 			●————→