

GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Coastal Foreshore Remediation Case Study



Summary

The Coastal Remediation Project undertaken by Gympie Regional Council included foreshore protection and remediation work at several locations along our Cooloola Coastline. The works at Rainbow Beach Foreshore included weed removal and revegetation using specialist erosion control products for sandy coastal environments. The Tin Can Bay Mangrove protection and rehabilitation at Oyster Parade, Kindy Beach and William Dodt Park focussed on restricting vehicle access, weed removal, coastal species re-plantings, and erosion controls.

Each of these project areas were selected due to their high community use and the associated direct impact on soil surface condition, vegetation type and density, each exacerbated by tidal and storm events eroding the foreshore dunal areas which are notably very sensitive erosion prone areas. Environment and aesthetic values are contributory to the need to manage impacts.

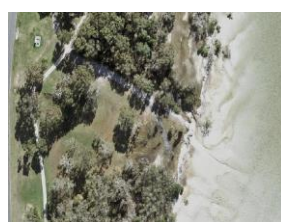
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Three (3) project areas were included; and activities contributed to erosion protection, weed removal and revegetation works.

These specifically included;

- Installation of temporary exclusion fencing
- Removal of weed species
- Reshaping of eroding soil and dunal edges
- Installation of erosion control products
- Permanent vehicle & pedestrian exclusion fencing
- Revegetation of specialist dune rehabilitation species.

Whilst physical works are completed, ongoing monitoring of natural rehabilitation after vehicle exclusion is planned in order to better protect and support our erosion prone coastline and foreshore areas.



Benefits of Project Delivery

Drivers

Council and community are aware of the potential and actual impacts from erosion along the Cooloola Coast shoreline. Understanding coastal and other process' which impact on our coastline, is as important in knowing the solutions needed to mitigate those process and protect our natural environment.

Council's coastal hazard adaption strategy (CHAS) for the Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay area identified adaptation actions focussed on understanding coastal processes and mitigating impacts from tidal and storm inundation.

Benefits

The coastal environmental works were assessed, and considered appropriate access, stabilisation and rehabilitation work options. These contributed to ensuring community access is maintained, whilst limiting impacts, and engaging community to consider and care for our unique coastal environment.

The remediation works aim to better protect our natural assets and community infrastructure assets.

The local environment will be further protected through restricted access, but also natural revegetation and recruitment, to allow for natural environmental values and aesthetic values along our foreshore areas to be retained for future generations.

Engagement Activities

Gympie Council, collaboratively through our Open Spaces and Parks team and Environment Services team, engaged a variety of stakeholders in the delivery of the Coastal Foreshore Remediation works.

Council engaged the services of Gympie District Land Care Group for site preparation works, Cooloola City Farm Nursery for plant species endemic to our region, and the general Community contributed to a community planting day, which was very well supported, highlighting the value our community and Council places on the Coastline and environment values.

The engagement activities demonstrated the universal support for protecting and enhancing our unique Coastal foreshore environments.

Process / Guidance

Council acknowledges the support of LGAQ for their QCoast₂₁₀₀ Program, funding and workshops to assist Council undertaking QCoast₂₁₀₀ Project Works.

The Coastal Remediation Project was a restorative engagement process aimed at demonstrating the inherent values of our coastal foreshore environment and acting to protect and enhance those values.

The works, whilst completed, are still yet to demonstrate further value in protecting the coastline, through monitoring the vehicular and pedestrian restrictions implemented (fencing and bollards), and in monitoring the coastal environments, through development of our 'MyCoast' app, currently in development.

Challenges

Council was fortunate enough to have a very committed team and community in supporting this project work. However, through undertaking this coastal remediation project, a variety of challenges presented themselves, and relate to general project management practices and process, specifically;

- Project delays and scope creep.*
- Staging milestone deliverables chronologically*
- Project change management practices with stakeholders*

Considering a more robust project management framework and process as part of funding and project planning would better mitigate problems/challenges. Supported by appropriate time and resources spent on assessment and planning project milestones and working with internal; stakeholders would further reduce likelihood of challenges. Solutions include;

- Ensure project staff have project management skills and/or training;*
- Proposed works collaboratively agreed prior to commencing works or receiving funding;*
- Ensure allocation of human resources are adequate for the project scope of works; and*
- Develop more detailed project planning and scheduling tools to track and improve project performance .*

The challenges for this project were addressed by spending additional time and resources on rectifying areas needing amendment or additional effort, and higher level of communications.

In the future...

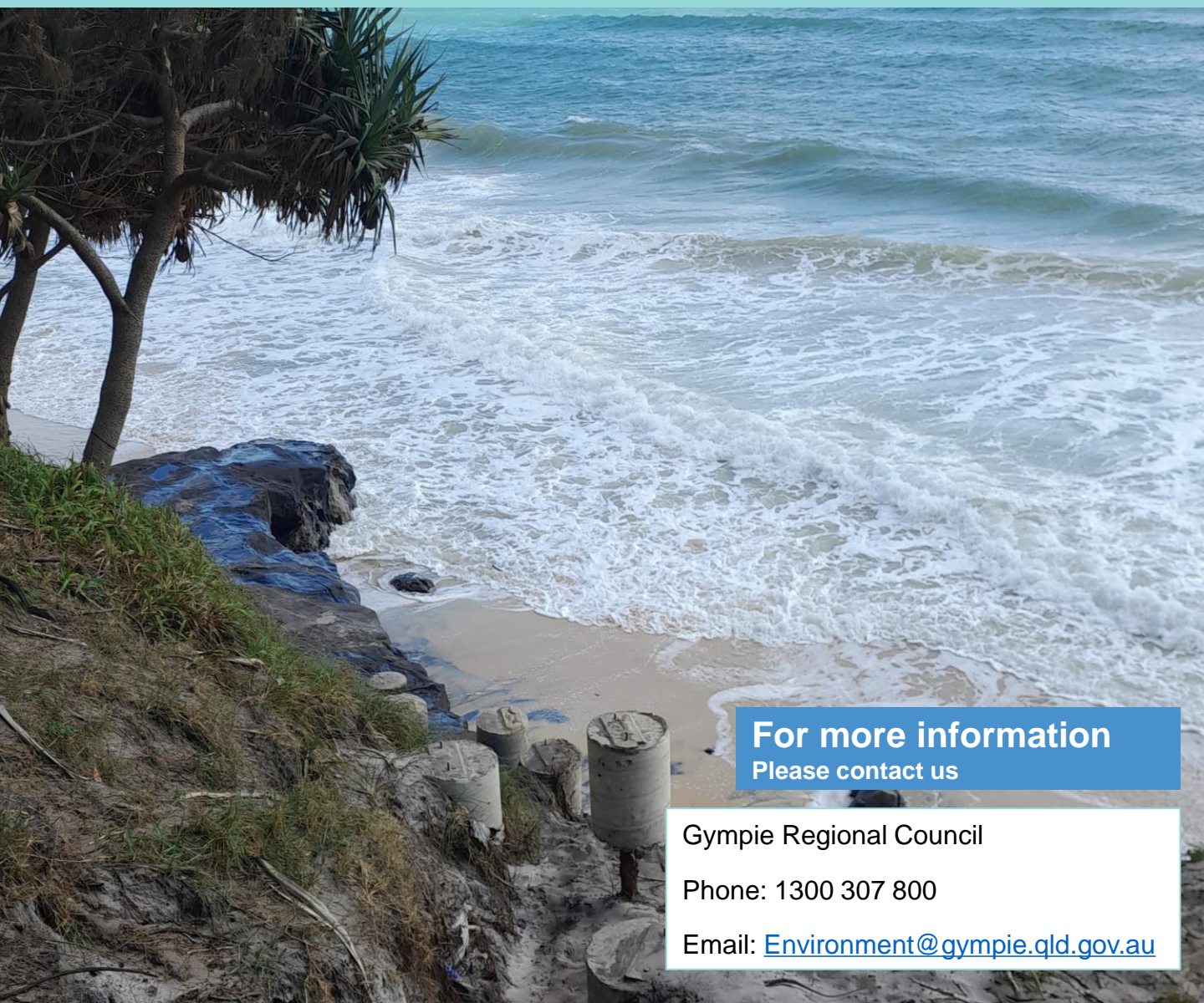
- Council aims to continue to work on our CHAS actions and strategies to better support Coast projects needed for our region.*
- Additional stakeholder communications, and appropriate project timeframes to be developed in future to better facilitate even greater environmental outcomes.*
- Continuing improvement in future projects to benefit from these lessons learned.*

Project Partners & Stakeholders

The Coastal Remediation Project was a success due to all stakeholders and their level of engagement, and Council Environment Services Team gratefully acknowledge the collaboration with;

- *Gympie Regional Council Open Spaces and Parks Team*
- *Gympie District Landcare Group*
- *Cooloola City Farm Nursery*
- *Department of Environment and Science*
- *Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).*
- *Tin Can Bay Progress Association Representative and Gympie Regional Council - Division 1 Councillor Jess Milne.*

Council aims to 'Conserve and enhance the natural environment' (GRC Corporate Strategic Plan - 2022-2027).



For more information
Please contact us

Gympie Regional Council

Phone: 1300 307 800

Email: Environment@gympie.qld.gov.au