Protecting coasts

What's the Gold Coast without its coast?

Although there's much more to our city than its beaches, our stunning coastline gives our city its identity. We live and work along the coast, we play on the coast, our coastline protects us, and it supports a rich variety of coastal and marine wildlife.

The city’s coastline extends from Point Danger in the south to Jumpinpin at the northern end of South Stradbroke Island. History has shown that this iconic coastline is also a dynamic one.

The sandy littoral zone – the area from shoreline to just beyond the wave breaker zone – is the city’s frontline against powerful wave action that is intensified during extreme weather events. Such wave action determines the shape and state of our beaches and coast.

The significant economic, social and environmental benefits and services provided by our coastal areas means that coastal management is a serious and important issue for Council and the community.

Modifications to the coastal zone over time, including the construction of public and private infrastructure very close to the coastline, has exposed the city to significant risk from a dynamic and high energy ocean.

These risks are compounded by the predicted impacts of climate change on the Gold Coast, where the coast’s vulnerability has been observed during intense weather events through the 1960s to 1970s.

An urbanised coastline also results in continual risk of pollution from hard rubbish and stormwater, both of which can have significant effects on water quality and wildlife.

City of Gold Coast has been a leader in coastal management for more than 50 years, driven by the need to protect the city and its shoreline from the impacts of storms. Active management including beach nourishment, seawall construction, improving access to beaches, beach cleaning, dune restoration and sand bypassing all contribute to protecting the coastal environment.

- Coastal management: Find out how the City manages and cares for our beaches and foreshores
- Discovering our coast: Understand the ecological and physical processes that shape the coastal environment
- Gold Coast beaches: Explore the Gold Coast’s stunning beaches with our beach-by-beach guide
- Clean and healthy beaches: Discover how we keep our beaches looking great, all year round
- Beach cameras: See the latest live images from the Gold Coast's network of beach cameras
- Coastal Community Engagement Program: Join our programs to learn about coastal processes and help care for our precious beach ecosystem.
- Our Natural City Strategy: Helping to ensure we live in balance with nature.

Related information

- Coastal management

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Key information

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