6.2 Reporting region 2: Curtis Island/ Facing Island

Landscape

Curtis Island and Facing Island are large islands located directly east of Gladstone City (Figure 9).

The main community on Curtis Island is at Southend, and a small settlement is located on the north west side of the island. Three major LNG processing facilities are situated on the south west coast of Curtis Island. Facing Island has several small settlements at the northern, north western and southern extents of the island.

Significant proportions of Reporting region 2 are designated as strategic land of Gladstone Port Corporation, particularly Facing Island.

Each of these islands has very high cultural and environmental significance for the region. Large areas of Facing Island are covered by Native Title, held by the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda Peoples.



Figure 9. Reporting region 2 (Curtis Island/Facing Island)

Curtis Island has areas of National Park, State Forest and conservation park, significant species include coastal heath, littoral rainforest, saltmarsh, remnant wetlands and its sandy beaches act as a rookery for the Flatback Turtle. There are also several estuarine wetlands of high ecological significance on Facing Island, particularly on the west coast.

These islands have a high recreational value, and are popular locations for camping, boating, 4WD and ecotourism. There are various facilities on the islands to help support these activities.

Coastal hazards exposure and implications

These islands are exposed to periodic storm tide and tidal inundation, and are likely to be increasingly exposed in the future.

Assets that may be increasingly at risk from inundation include some settlement areas and associated roads and infrastructure. By 2100, the level of inundation exposure for some of these areas may be beyond tolerance levels for current land uses.

Increasing inundation may also impact significant ecological and cultural assets on these islands, including the turtle rookery.

Some beaches available for recreation and vehicle access are already impacted by high tides and the frequency of these impacts is likely to increase over time.

The present day adaptation response for Reporting region 2 is to mitigate coastal hazard risk and begin preparations for transition of some areas (land use / assets in inundation areas) in the longer term (Table 14).

The adaptation pathway for these islands focusses on dune and vegetation protection and maintenance, enhancing community adaptive capacity, updating disaster management arrangements, maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure while undertaking some location-based transition planning for the long-term (2100). Region-wide actions also apply as applicable.

	Present Day	2060	2100
Adaptation response	Monitor	Mitigate	Transition*
Adaptation actions			
1. Capacity building	As per region-wide actions, including:		
1.2 Knowledge sharing and collaboration	Enhance community adaptive capacity to coastal hazards, including awareness of increasing coastal hazard exposure and risk (particularly inundation) and ways to improve individual preparedness and adaptive capacity		
	Make the Strategic Plan and new information of coastal hazard risks available to industry, port, residents, and other stakeholders, to communicate long-term coastal hazard areas and risks		
1.4 Research opportunities	Investigate local ecosystem responses/sensitivities to changing coastal hazards and management implications, including for Flatback turtle rookery (linked to research collaboration)		
2. Planning updates	As per region-wide actions, including:		
2.1 Land use planning	Consider implications (within Council) and have regard to the new coastal hazard information presented in the Strategic Plan and Supplements, including: • Approval conditions for lots of undeveloped land • Implications for future development approvals and conditions.		Revise permit to occupy conditions to inform transition planning
	In collaboration with relevant local stakeholders, develop an approach, including triggers, for a transition response for targeted areas of Facing Island in response to increasing long-term inundation exposure and risk.		Implement transition plan
2.2 Disaster management	Update local disaster management planning for this locality based on updated coastal hazard maps		
3. Modifying infrastructure	As per region-wide actions, including:		
3.1 Build resilience	Promote resilient homes within the community		
		Review and update Council asset management plans to incorporate upgrades and modifications to inundation prone areas of Curtis Island and Facing Island and other relevant infrastructure (where practical)	
		Review and update Council asset management plans to incorporate upgrades and modifications in inundation prone areas, and to other relevant community infrastructure (where practical).	
4. Coastal management and engineering	As per region-wide actions, including:		
4.1 Dune protection and maintenance	Collaborate with relevant land managers to scope potential future dune protection and maintenance program for targeted locations on Facing Island and Curtis Island (Southend, Yellow Patch)		

**A transition response may be appropriate for limited areas within zone*

Table 14. Reporting region 2 adaptation pathway