6.7 Reporting region 7: Rules Beach/Baffle Creek

Landscape

Rules Beach and Baffle Creek are located at the southernmost extent of the Gladstone region (Figure 14). Rules Beach is approximately 8 km long and extends south from Broadwater Creek to Baffle Creek. There are also small coastal settlements at Broadwater and Deepwater.



Figure 14. Reporting region 7 (Rules Beach/ Baffle Creek)

This area is popular for camping, beach-based 4WD and fishing. With areas of conservation park along Rules Beach and Baffle Creek, and fish habitat areas and wetlands of high ecological significance, this region also has significant environmental value.

Coastal hazards exposure and implications

The Reporting region has relatively low coastal hazard exposure and risk at present day. Inundation exposure is likely to increase in the future to low-lying parts of the region. Open coast erosion risk is likely to be low for majority of the region.

Assets that may be increasingly at risk from inundation include low-lying residential areas and roads at Deepwater, Baffle Creek and Broadwater. A small number of residences at Broadwater, near to the open coast may be increasingly at risk of open coast erosion.

By 2100 the level of hazard exposure for some areas may be beyond tolerance levels for current land uses.

The adaptation response for Reporting Region 7 is to continue to monitor coastal hazard risk and begin preparations for additional hazard mitigation in the future (Table 19). Additional mitigation may be required if the dynamics of Baffle Creek alter substantially.

The adaptation pathway for this area focusses on enhancing community adaptive capacity, updating disaster management arrangements, dune protection and maintenance and asset management planning including resilient housing and upgrading inundation prone critical infrastructure.

	Present Day	2060	2100
Adaptation response	Monitor	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 community and stakeholders, to communicate long-term coastal hazard areas and risks.		
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.		Revised permit to occupy conditions to inform transition planning
	Develop approach, including triggers, for a transition response for targeted areas of region 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 asset management plan to incorporate upgrades to inundation prone assets (including at Deepwater, Baffle Creek and Broadwater) and other relevant infrastructure where practical.	
4. Coastal management and engineering	As per region-wide actions		

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

Table 19. Reporting region 7 adaptation pathway