What are your values and vision?

What do you love about Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park?

What are the issues and challenges in how the open spaces are currently being used and managed?

What would you like to change for the future?

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan 2021-2041

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park are much loved, having highly valued recreational, ecological, and cultural heritage characteristics. High cliffs in the coastal headland reserve provide spectacular views of Mooloolaba, the Mooloolah River mouth, Mount Coolum to the north and Kawana Beach to the south.

Point Cartwright headland is a sacred place to First Nations peoples and is home to a number of culturally significant sites.

The point has been a beacon to shipping since 1978 when the new 32.4 metre pentagonal lighthouse replaced use of the Caloundra Lighthouse.

La Balsa Park on the Mooloolah River is one of the most important protected lowland areas of the Sunshine Coast. A wide range of recreation facilities cater for the popularity of the park including three playgrounds, a fitness station, amenities, shelters, barbeque and picnic facilities, a wedding rotunda and boat ramp.

The park obtained its name from the famous 1970s La Balsa expedition in which a raft made of balsa logs carrying four men and a cat travelled from Guayaquil, Ecuador to the Sunshine Coast. The La Balsa expedition was to show that it was possible for contact to have occurred between pre-Columbian South American cultures and those of the Pacific region.

The reserve and park are regarded as some of the most beautiful environments on the Sunshine Coast. They offer people an opportunity to get away from the town centres and connect with nature and the ocean.

Project Overview

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan proposes to guide the future use and management of this coastal area, balancing the needs of users and the environment, for all the community to enjoy.

The Master Plan seeks to consider the future of the project area up to 2041, with a focus on the next 10 years. It will include an analysis of the site, uses, opportunities and constraints, the community's values and vision and associated actions, priorities, and costs for implementation.

Where to from here?

1 INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS
October 2021 - January 2022

2 VALUES AND VISIONING
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Phase 1A
December/January 2021

IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Phase 1B
Early 2022

3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN
2022

4 HAVE WE GOT IT RIGHT?
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Phase 2
2022

5 FINAL MASTER PLAN
2022

Images: Courtesy of Picture Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Council

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Site analysis

Lighthouse

The Coral Sea

Point Cartwright Reserve

Mooloolaba Bay

Mooloolaba Spit Park

Mooloolah River

La Balsa Park

Buddina Foreshore Reserve

Pacific Boulevard

Harbour Parade

Alan Walker Park

Pontoon

Boat Ramp

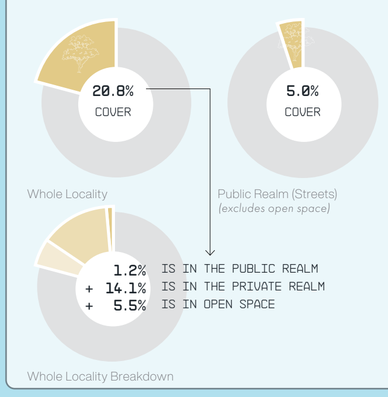
Buddina

TREE CANOPY COVER

The % tree canopy cover (trees above 2m) has been mapped to understand the extent and distribution of shade across the locality (see Figure 119).

This mapping indicates that 20.8% of Buddina benefits from shade generated by tree canopy, the distribution of which is shown in Figure 119.

This is less shade than the average (25%) compared to the localities mapped in the coastal corridor.



LEGEND

- Sun Path
- Prevailing Winds
- 1m Contours
- Slope Over 30°
- Views
- Deep Water Access
- Turtle Nesting Area
- Remnant Vegetation
- Open Space (Park)

0m 50 100 200

Place character

Kabi Kabi, Jhdungah Country has several First Nations culturally significant sites

Coastal Beach

Rocky Headland

Lighthouse

Elevated Open Grassed/Signature Trees/Built Form Elements

River Walk

Closed Coastal Vegetation

Open Grassed with Native Shade Trees

Open Grassland with Coastal Vegetation

Point Cartwright Reserve

Closed Remnant Vegetation/Vegetation

Shallow River Beach

The Coral Sea

Mooloolaba Bay

Mooloolaba Spit Park

Open Grassed with Signature Trees and Native Shade Trees

Coastal Beach

Flat Open Grassed/ Signature Trees/ Built Form Elements

Mooloolah River

Buddina Foreshore Reserve

La Balsa Park

Low Coastal Vegetation

Open Grassed/ Signature Trees/ Built Form Elements

Coastal Beach

Pacific Boulevard

Harbour Parade

Alan Walker Park

Pontoon Boat Ramp

Buddina

The areas of natural landform create features that are an essential part of Buddina's character.

The headland provides high levels of visual connectivity and physical amenity, offering panoramic ocean views. The views and vistas out across the river and ocean, from Buddina, are regionally significant and a unique characteristic to the area.

The Mooloolah River is a significant cultural, environmental, and foundational part of Buddina's water setting. At the mouth of the Mooloolah River is an important water gateway. It marks the important transition from ocean to river arrival and departure for water- based travellers.

Buddina contains several public parks and streets. They amplify the areas 'relaxed coastal' lifestyle.

A key element of Buddina that connects the different communities to places are the activites and relaxed coastal character associated with water.

LEGEND

- Gateway
- Destination
- Activity Hub
- Character Precinct
- Ship wreck

0m 50 100 200

Getting to and around

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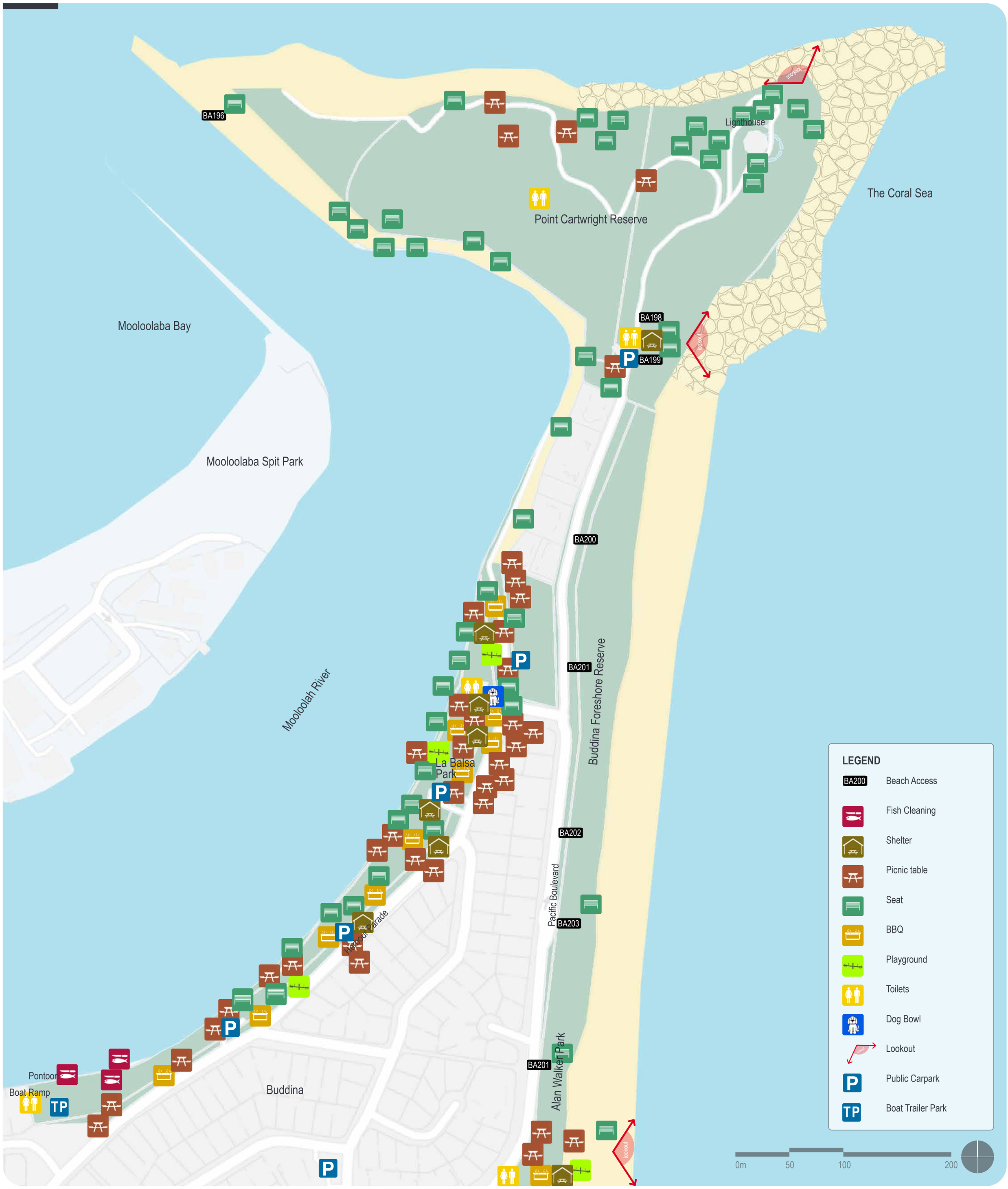
Existing park amenities and infrastructure



How the spaces are used

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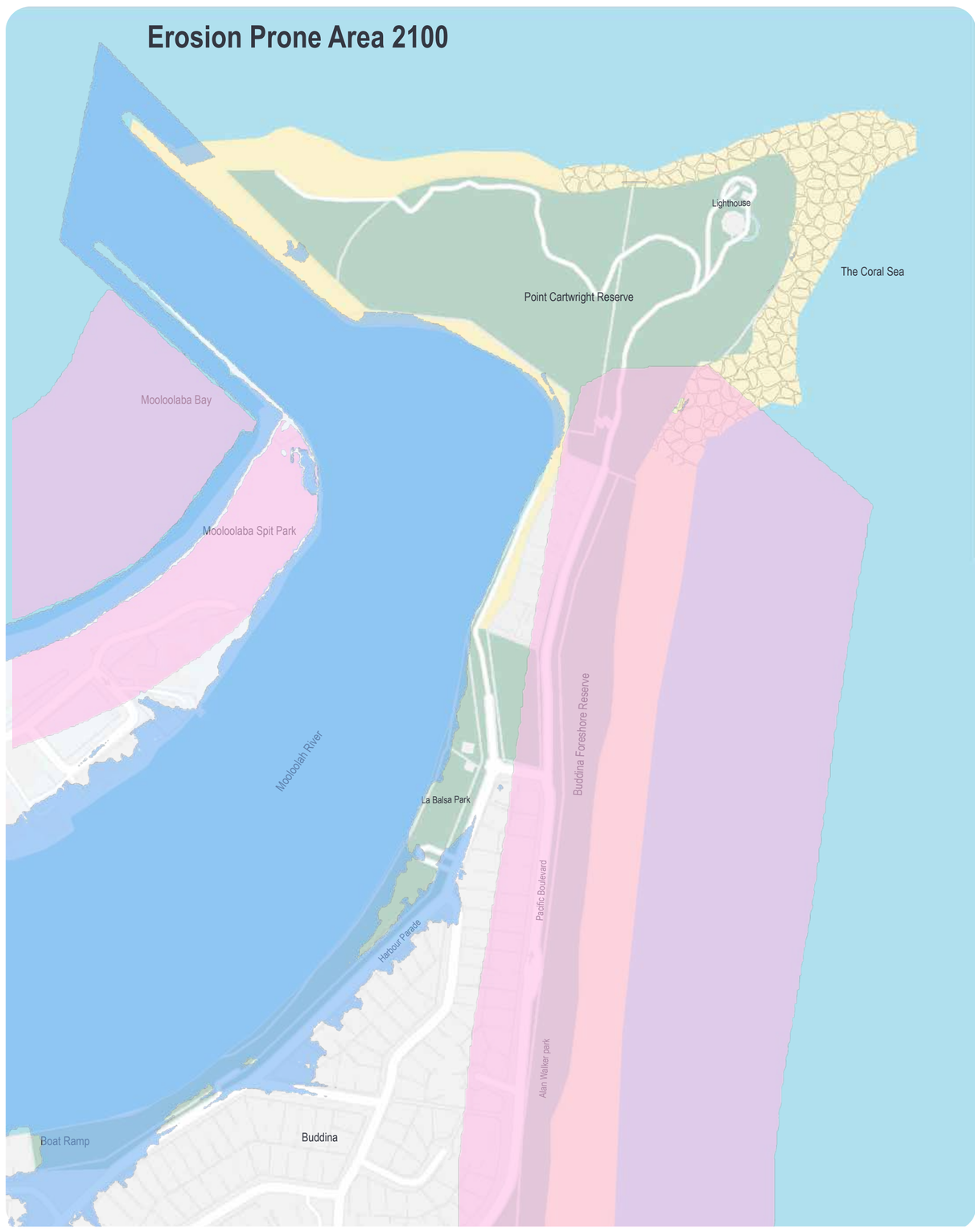
Environment and ecology

Climate change and adaptation



Coastal Hazard Adaptation

Mooloolaba Beach and Spit and Mooloolah River Estuary

This area includes the foreshore areas along the Mooloolaba spit and areas adjacent to the river estuary. Alignment training (rock groynes) maintain a fixed opening for the Mooloolah River, and dredged sand from the entrance is used to nourish the spit beach. Revetment walls are present along the canal estate waterfront areas.

The spit beach may be exposed to open coast erosion in the future and low-lying urban areas may be at risk from long term inundation hazards.

Point Cartwright and Buddina Beach

The Point Cartwright and Buddina Beach sandy coastline may be increasingly exposed to open coast erosion into the future. The dune system provides a natural defence to erosion events and protection and enhancement of the dunes is the primary action for mitigating erosion. There may be a need for some additional actions to assist with avoiding or mitigating erosion before 2100.

Adaptation Response

The present-day adaptation response for Mooloolaba Beach spit, Mooloolah River Estuary and floodplain, and Point Cartwright to Kawana Beach is to continue to mitigate coastal hazard risk and prepare for additional hazard mitigation in the future.

The adaptation pathway includes a focus on special area adaptation planning (linked to 'Placemaking Mooloolaba') to inform seawall upgrades and connections, beach nourishment, reviewing planning controls; a feasibility study for an alternative tidal barrier option and a longer term pathway option of additional protection for the access road (Pacific Boulevard).

Review of the adaptation pathway will be ongoing and guided by the outcome of present day actions and relevant triggers. LGA-wide actions also apply where relevant to this locality.

LEGEND

Overland Flow Extents:

- Current Overland Flow Extent 1 in 100yrs
- Future Overland Flow Extent 1 in 100yrs

Flood Extents

- Current Flood Extent 1 in 100yrs
- Future Flood Extent 1 in 100yrs

Erosion Prone Area 2100:

- Tidal Areas (HAT) based on 0.8m SLR
- Open Coast Erosion (1% AEP) 2100

0m 50 100 200