

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council

Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP)

Case Study

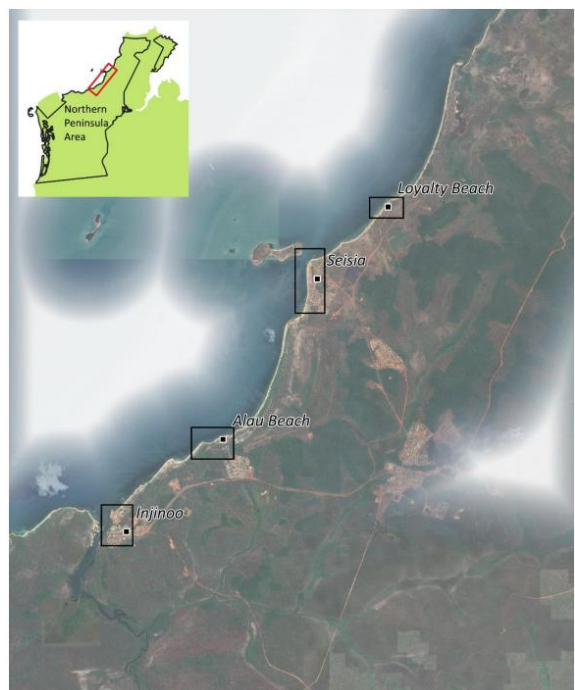
Project Overview

The coastline of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC) is located on the northern-most tip of the Australian mainland. The communities of this region hold special significance for the coast and for its cultural values, access to fishing, hunting, and recreation. The Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) has focused on the townships of New Mapoon, Seisia, Umagico, and Injinoo to allow these communities to actively plan for erosion management of their coastline.

The Northern Peninsula area is a unique and dynamic place. This SEMP has used the best available coastal science combined with the values, knowledge, and insights of stakeholders, Traditional Owners, and the broader community to provide a meaningful and actionable strategy for managing key areas of the NPARC coastline.

Project Objectives

- *Provide direction for the management of key parts of the coastline in the immediate to short-term (up to 10 years) planning horizon*
- *Investigate and address the underlying causes of shoreline erosion and future impacts*
- *Enable efficient use of resources in alignment with community values.*



Drivers

Coastal erosion is a natural process that shapes and reshapes coastlines over long timeframes. However, erosion processes become a concern when interacting with communities and infrastructure. The SEMP provides the Northern Peninsula area with a framework to proactively plan for and manage erosion along their coastline, while working with natural coastal processes.

Benefits

- *Informed by local knowledge, insights and coastal values*
- *Detailed understanding of the coastal processes and environmental conditions that influence the Northern Peninsula*
- *Purposeful community engagement and consultation*
- *Detailed knowledge and investigation ensures actions are specific to each site*

Engagement Activities

Engagement during the Yumpla Coast Strategic Plan (CHAS) highlighted the importance of the coastal environment to the community, including the need to maintain cultural connection to land and sea. Following on from the CHAS, a listening tour was organised to reconnect and gather insight from community of problem areas and coastal values. This aimed to allow greater involvement from community and provide them with a sense of ownership and direction of the plan.

Process / Guidance

- *Develop a shared understanding of coastal values*
- *Engage with community, traditional owners, and key stakeholders*
- *Detailed study of local coastal processes*
- *Identify key erosion hotspots*
- *Options analysis, concept design, and approvals*
- *Implementation plan for each community*

“Planned development of coastal infrastructure needs to incorporate a good understanding of coastal processes and potential impacts”

Problems / Challenges

The dynamic weather and tidal patterns in the Torres Strait are unique to this area and recorded environmental and topographic information is limited. This posed a unique challenge for understanding local coastal processes along the NPARC coast. Gaps were addressed by relying on site-based and local knowledge to inform the management options.

Sourcing and procurement of materials is a challenge when operating in the Northern Peninsula area. The success of coastal protection measures will depend on material availability and options have been developed to use locally-sourced material wherever possible. Still, external funding will be required to implement a number of the SEMP recommendations.

Outcomes / Conclusions

- *Site-specific erosion management actions for each of the key hotspots identified at Loyalty Beach, Seisia wharf, Alau Beach, and Injinoo Lookout.*
- *Detailed costings and approvals assessment for recommended options at each location*
- *Recommendations for manual sand bypassing to address erosion issues at Seisia wharf*
- *Concept designs to renew and remediate the existing rock armour seawall at Injinoo Lookout*
- *Site-specific implementation plan for addressing erosion at each community over the next 10 years.*

Project Partners

The success of this project is due to the constructive participation of Traditional Owners and the broader community of the Northern Peninsula area. The project team wishes to acknowledge the following groups for their valued input:

- *Apudthama Land Trust*
- *Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN 8114)*
- *The Angamuthi, Atambaya and Gudang Yadhaykenu peoples*
- *NPARC Ranger Programme*
- *QCoast₂₁₀₀ Program*
- *Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)*
- *Department of Environment and Science (DES)*



For more information

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www.nparc.qld.gov.au/corporate-documents

