



**Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc submission on Redland City Council's Draft Land Management Plan for the Temporary Commercial Use of Public Open Space (Council Trustee Reserves)**

**Coochiemudlo Foreshore East 24 SP199973, 23 SP144276; Coochiemudlo Island West 22SP144276 and Laurie Burns Recreation Reserve 4SP115493.**

**20 November 2020.**

The draft proposal for four temporary commercial activities across the nominated foreshores is not supported by Coastcare as it is environmentally unsustainable. Conservation foreshores on Coochiemudlo Island already draw heavy tourist visitation during peak times, stretching the holding capacity of natural infrastructure, including our fragile sandy bush beaches.

Perhaps, with appropriate community consultation, site evaluation (as detailed hereunder) and environmental buffer in place, the "oval" of Laurie Burns Recreation Reserve **Location ID 5315** could be viable for small-scale fitness and recreation, tourism-based activities such as Indigenous and cultural tours or approved entertainment.

- The **2004 Coochiemudlo Island Land Management Plan**, endorsed by Redland City Council on 11 February 2004 and approved by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, detailed a practical action plan for conserving and enhancing the values of reserve land.

<http://coochiemudloislandcoastcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2004/02/Coochiemudlo-Island-Land-Management-Plan-2004.pdf>

Under 9. 1 Whole of Island Action Plan, Foreshore protection/regeneration, "The Management Area Guidelines for the Foreshore Area provide management performance guidelines based on the protection and enhancement of this vital area for the island and its role in maintaining the Emerald Fringe."

The LMP, divides the island into precincts, then five management zones - beach, foreshore, intermediate, infrastructure and inner island. Acceptable uses for the foreshore include access at defined locations, rehabilitation and dinghy storage in designated areas with exceptions for jetty and boat ramps.

In recognition of its significance, the Emerald Fringe or reserve land that encircles the island was listed on the local Heritage Register in 2018. This Heritage listing, along with the Cultural

Heritage Management and draft Shoreline Erosion Management Plans should trigger a review of the **2004 Coochiemudlo Island Land Management Plan**.

At a minimum, Coochiemudlo's unique conservation foreshores should undergo, detailed site evaluation based on the Sustainable Visitor Management process developed by the QPWS as reported in Brown, T.J. (2009) "Carrying Capacity - an uncomfortable truth," before any proposal is considered for Commercial Use. A pilot study was undertaken on North Stradbroke Island and Guidelines for temporary Commercial Use developed in 2010 as part of **the Redland City Council's Open Space Strategy 2026**, two years later.

[https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/info/20272/redland\\_open\\_space\\_strategy](https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/info/20272/redland_open_space_strategy)

This **Strategy** clearly highlights Coochiemudlo's natural attractions under **"Signature experiences and settings**

- visiting the natural Emerald Fringe —Coochiemudlo Island Foreshore
- historical significance of the Island
- water-based recreation." p258

It offers considered advice on Commercial activities in open space

"Commercial use should be carefully planned if it is going to take place at all (e.g. boat hire).

An assessment of suitable location should be undertaken including in following areas:

- Coochiemudlo Island Foreshore including all beaches
- Laurie Burns Sportsfield" p257

#### **"Outdoor recreation opportunities**

The following outdoor recreation activities are able to be undertaken in this ICA:

- bird watching and nature study
- boating (kayaking, power boating, sailing, para-sailing, canoeing)
- bushwalking in urban conservation reserves
- cycling in conservation reserves and unformed road reserves
- fishing
- on road cycling
- picnicking in beach setting
- swimming in the bay "p258

- **Coochiemudlo Foreshore East**

**(Location ID 5309, from the intersection of Phillips Street and Victoria Parade South to the eastern-most boundary)**

**Flinders Beach, SITE A** on map next page, suffered significant erosion from a storm surge from ex-TC Oswald in 2013 that felled trees, destroying infrastructure including the Norfolk track. With RAMSAR funding from the Australian Government and volunteer effort supported by Redland City Council, the beach was restored but work is ongoing.

In 2019, Coastcare undertook a dune fencing project funded by a federal Landcare grant to complete refinement of beach access and protect the frontal dune. This conservation foreshore is valued by local fishermen, beachgoers, walkers, birdwatchers, kayakers and boaties (it's the second closest beach to the East Coochie Reef after Norfolk)

Local outrigger canoe activity is located here.

Flinders Beach is Coastcare's largest **Workzone** covered under Council permit. It spans .85 hectare of bushland adjacent to the Norfolk track and significant aboriginal cultural heritage, including scar trees.

There are three access paths to the beach – the picnic zone, the outriggers and west, abutting the Bushcare zone. There is **no space** in the hind-dune to accommodate "Temporary commercial activities." Human traffic over the hind dune is a major cause of environmental degradation requiring on-going rehabilitation.

This Conservation Zone provides habitat for flora and fauna and is an environmental corridor. It's an ecologically important area, first and foremost, protecting natural and cultural heritage values.



Scale 1 cm = 20m (at A4 size)

Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc.

June 2020

Norfolk and Flinders Beach Maintenance Area  
Showing Workzones

Legend

**A** Maintenance Area  
Showing Workzones

Date of Aerial Photography....2011

- Westward, near the memorial flagpole at Main Beach is the main breeding area for lorikeets and often the bush stone curlews. This area should be managed accordingly. The zone's overall fragility is obvious as there's a lack of under-story and ground cover. Despite the best of intentions, grass fails to grow.

It's noted that the proposed new plan stipulates no activity within 10 metres of structures such as playgrounds, park benches, shelters, tables, barbecues, kiosks, public toilets, public

outdoor fitness equipment (non-existent), memorials and public art or shade structures. This leaves virtually no available space available for consideration outside the fenced rehabilitation zones maintained by Bushcare.

Just east of the jetty is heavily patronised by visiting jet-skis and kayakers, heading to the island café and when operational, clients of Coochie Boat Hire. Allowing for beachgoers and fishermen, there is little space!



The hind-dune zone at Main Beach, east of the jetty is also severely denuded and suffers from unmanaged storm-water run-off. There are four significant washouts between the jetty and eastern end of Flinders Beach that create dangerous beach conditions during and post rainfall events.



**February 2020**



**November 2020**

On weekends, Main beach between the jetty to the barge ramp (**Location ID 5309**) is fully occupied by the 200 strong member, Coochiemudlo Island Surf Lifesaving Club who manage a patrolled bathing reserve. Nestled behind the shady casuarinas and cottonwoods are fenced rehabilitation zones which buffer the island from the elements.

The fragility of this area is clearly demonstrated by Council difficulty to revegetate a denuded zone, temporarily fenced for over two years to encourage limited grass cover.

- **Coochiemudlo Foreshore West, (Location ID 5310)**

Perhaps, hire of non-motorised watercraft would be less congested sited between the barge ramp and east of the seasonal dog off-leash beach.

This wide beach is already home to dinghy and kayak racks with nearby toilets, as well as barbeque and shelter shed. The hind-dune is currently better vegetated than Main Beach East.

Yours sincerely,

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