

Community Resilience Scorecard

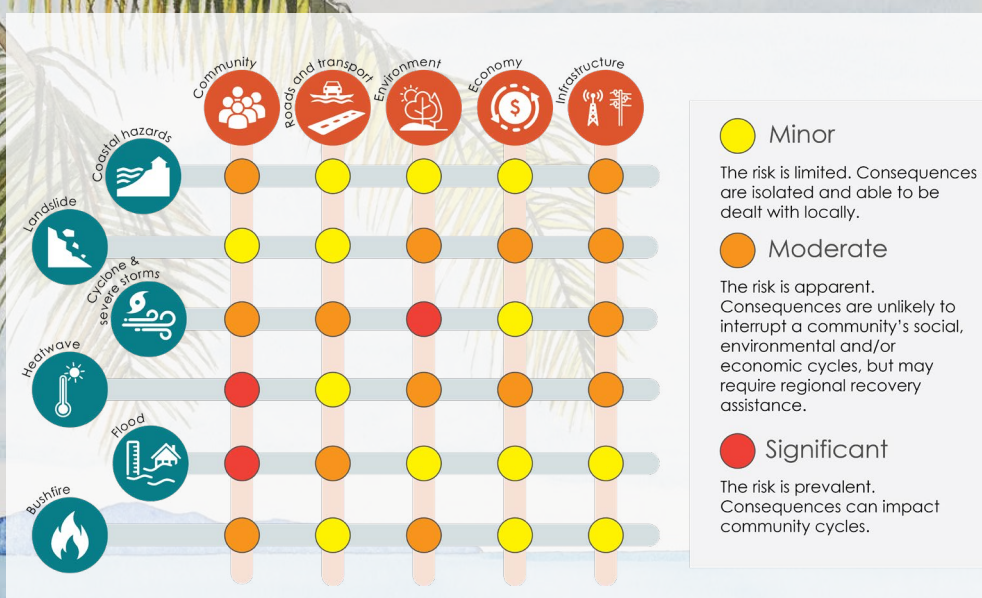
Wonga Beach (Wungkabadi) to Newell Beach (Nulu)



**LOCAL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT GROUP**

Disaster Management is everybody's business

We are unique beach side suburbs, hugging the Daintree River floodplains and low-lying shores of Trinity Bay. Our communities value being near to the coast and the lifestyle this enables. We understand the risks of living here and the need to be vigilant of our exposure to both flood and coastal hazards.



RISK STATEMENT

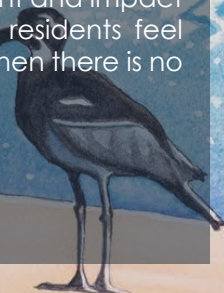
Located in the centre of the Shire, these coastal communities share significant risk of cyclone, flood and coastal hazards. The flat landscape means that multiple events occurring at the same time can increase our risks.

Coastal hazard risk dominates the beach communities, especially erosion. In some locations, communities will need to adapt in the future. Storm tide risk is evident along the coastline here.




The coastal communities are flat and surrounded by cane land, so bushfire is not a concern.

Many of our buildings are relatively new and able to withstand severe storms. But flooding from the Daintree River floodplain is a major risk and if this occurs at the same time as a king tide the impacts can be significant. Floods can also separate our communities from Mossman and cut access.



Landslides have occurred at Rocky Point and impact connections to Mossman. Vulnerable residents feel the effects of heatwaves, especially when there is no coastal breeze.



Hazard mapping

-  High storm tide inundation area
-  Medium storm tide inundation area
-  Flood hazard area (Queensland floodplain assessment overlay)

Basemap

-  Rivers and ocean
-  Natural environment and conservation areas



Wonga Beach is very flat. This means stormwater run-off can be slow to drain.



Long-time residents talk about how 'old' Wonga Beach flooded in the 1996 floods.

Telecommunications tower



Wonga Beach Rural Fire Brigade. This is a Council sandbag collection point.



The last petrol station before the Daintree River crossing.



Bamboo

Properties and the roadway along the Rocky Point foreshore are exposed to landslide risk. Landslides in the past have closed the road for periods of time.



Rocky Point Boat Ramp



Rocky Point

Whyanbeel

Whyanbeel Creek (Station 531067) Flood Warning Infrastructure.



This stretch of Mossman Daintree Rd, near Saltwater Creek is low lying. The road can flood during heavy rain.



Miallo

Several landslides have occurred in the hills of Miallo and Whyanbeel in recent years, associated with heavy rain.



Newell Beach can get very windy.



The mouth of Saltwater Creek is changing.



Newell Beach



There are older buildings in Newell Beach which may be more vulnerable to cyclones than buildings elsewhere.

Newell Beach Boat Ramp



The community is strong with foundations for acting together in place

The community is acting together for risk reduction, supported by others

The community has a formal response and recovery plan and resources in place

What makes us

STRONG?

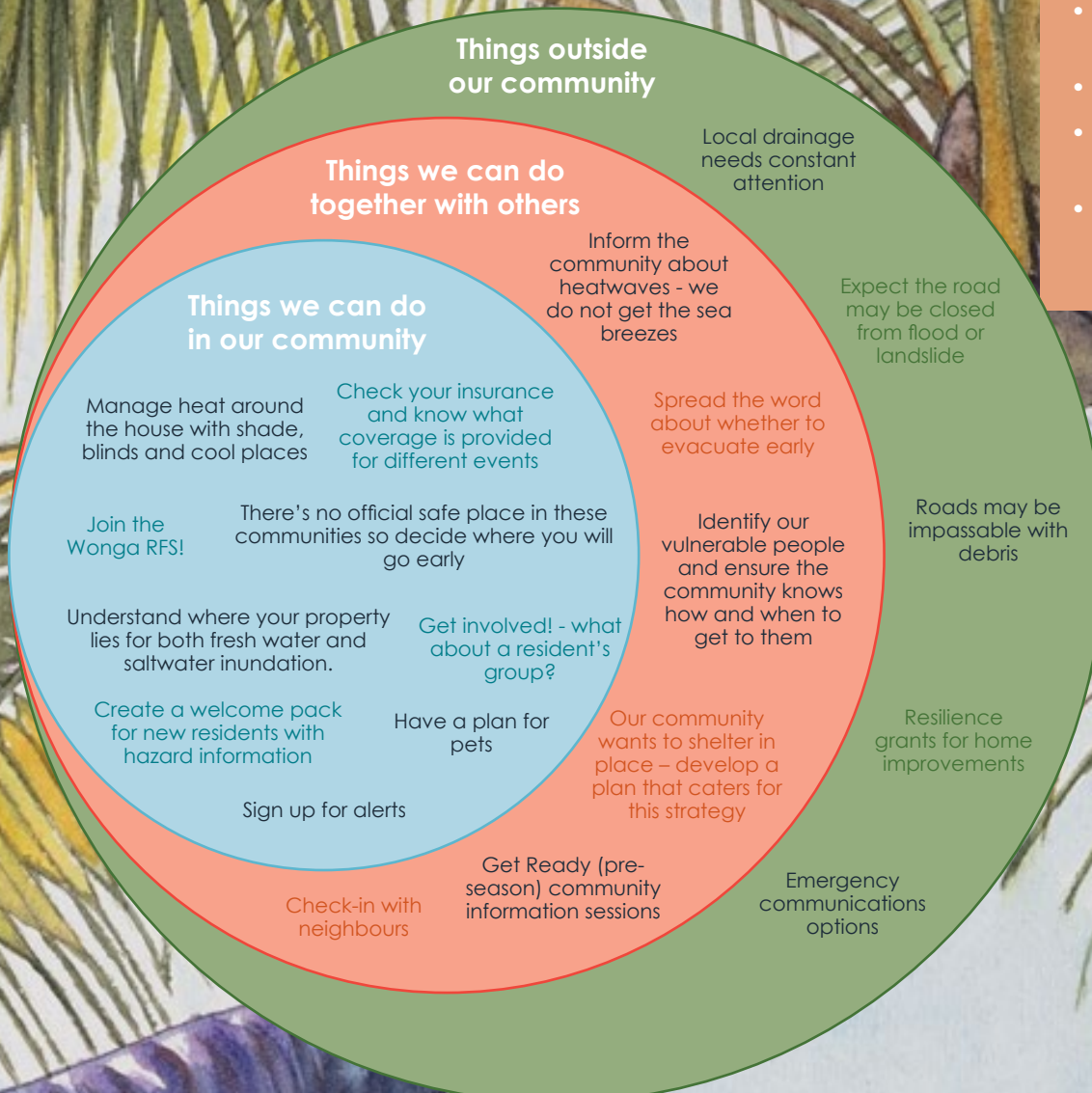
- We are happy to lend a hand
- We understand that severe weather will come again
- We have good connections within the community, and we know our neighbours
- We will look out for each other as before
- Most of us have a plan and look after our properties

What makes us

VULNERABLE?

- Our communities are exposed to both fresh water and saltwater
- Some community members can't afford to run air-conditioning
- The community is getting older
- Need more people involved
- Lots of people have pets and also need medication
- Low warning times for flash flooding off the hills

TAKING ACTION



“This is a great little community. We all come together in a disaster. That’s why I volunteer in my local RFS. You feel great when you help someone in your community!”

Ruth Ross



“ Cyclones, Justin 1997, Rona 1999 and Steve 2000. Because we lived on the beachfront at Wonga we cleared what we could, locked up the house and drove up to Mt Molloy or Mareeba. Rona was the worst. When we returned to the property we could not get in the driveway or walk to the beach for fallen trees. It would have been very scary to have stayed.”

Survey respondent, 2023

Co-incident Flooding

Wonga Beach and Newell Beach are particularly vulnerable to inundation from both fresh water and sea water. This is known as “coincident flooding”.

Wonga Beach is low-lying within the Daintree River floodplain and delta. This means that when rainfall collects from the Dagmar Range and Pinnacle just west of Wonga Beach at the same time as a high tide or storm event, water is trapped and cannot get out to the ocean.

Newell Beach is also low lying and, on the floodplain, and coastline between Saltwater Creek and the Mossman River. Both communities are vulnerable to inundations from multiple sources.

For regional and state resources try:

Wet Tropics Regional Resilience Strategy

Floodcheck Queensland

Get Ready Queensland

Resilient Homes Guidelines

The Future Climate Dashboard



Click on the titles to access website information

For all your local information head to:

Douglas Disaster Dashboard
(snap the QR code)



Download the App
Search 'Douglas Shire Council' in your app store

You can register to receive alerts and warnings for road closures and emergencies on the [Disaster Dashboard](#).

Douglas Shire Disaster and Emergency Information

Get in touch with the **Disaster Management team** at disaster@douglas.qld.gov.au

For maps of your hazards go to the Douglas Shire Planning Scheme mapping

Douglas Resilient Coast Strategy

For emergency assistance during an event:
contact the SES on 132 500.

For life threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.