Community Resilience Scorecard Environment







The peaks of the Great Divide form the boundary of Douglas Shire to the west with the Devils Thumb at 1330m and Black Mountain at 1337m. The mountains are inaccessible in many parts which protects the fragile ecosystems.

The Daintree National Park covers much of the southern expanse of the mountains and the coastal mountains of the McDowall and Thornton Ranges. The park has shared management with the Kuku-Yulanji people.

The famous Creb track snakes its way from the Upper Daintree to Wujal Wujal attracting hundreds of adventurous drivers each year.

In the northern parts of the Shire the untouched rainforest stretches down to meet the coastline.

Pockets of communities can be found dispersed throughout this environment living close to nature.

The urban form has a light touch, infrastructure is minimal, and the dominating landscape attracts thousands of tourists each year to be immersed in this pristine environment.





The pristine and inaccessible rainforest of our region is exposed to unmapped hazards of severe storms, cyclones and heatwaves. Bushfire hazards dominate across this landscape and as rain becomes more intense but unreliable over time, dry periods are expected to be prolonged with the fire season starting earlier. The tradition of cool burning is continued by the Eastern Kuku Yulangi people, the Land and Sea Rangers and through shared management of the National Parks. These hazards destroy habitat and displace fauna. This opens opportunity for feral and pest flora and fauna species to anchor themselves before the endemic species can fully recover.

125

Significant landslides occur as a result of intense rainfall, erosion, or vegetation loss from cyclones, bushfire or combination of these. This disruption can further reshape plant and animal colonies, create heavy sediment flow in waterways and cause downstream debris flow and waterway scour. Cyclones and severe storms damage vegetation, and in severe cyclones can destroy ancient trees, exposing the delicate rainforest ecosystem to increased levels of sunlight.

China Camp, Thornton and Dagmar and **McDowall Ranges**

> Mountains 'Manjal



Rainforest 'Madja

Daintree River to Cape Tribulation

Mossman Gorge

B

communities, Degarra and Bloomfield,



The river valleys are the grazing and horticulture lands of the Douglas region.

Above the flat cropping land, the undulating hills provide safe grazing country and land for regional fruit crops such as mangoes, avocados, bananas and lychees.



The flood plains of the Mossman and Daintree Rivers are the fertile cropping lands of the region. Sugar production is a cornerstone of the economy which relies upon the landscape as well as infrastructure such as the mill and rail lines.

Interruptions to production have flow on effects to employment and the regional economy.

Natural hazards exposure

These areas are exposed to flood effects from the major river systems and the collection of stormwater on flat land where water is slow to move. Crops can become water logged in times of sustained rainfall, and damage through loss of sugar content can result.

60

Where the land is cleared, infrastructure that supports these industries is exposed such as fences, sheds, and supply chain routes to get produce to market.

Flattening from extreme winds or damage to the downstream infrastructure such as cane rail, roads and the Mossman Mill can impact the annual crop viability and local employment.

Storm and rain water run-off from cultivated crop land can also increase sediment in watercourses and contribute to sediment plumes to the Great Barrier Reef.

Daintree Village, Mossman, upper areas of Whyanbeel and Bamboo

> Vallevs 'Balav

River plains and flat lands around Mossman, Cassowary, Miallo, Cooya, Lower Daintree, Killaloe and Shannonvale

Valley Floor -Flood plains and Agriculture

Artwork by Erin Frizelle

The wetlands of Alexandra Bay and the Lower Daintree River are listed on the national Directory of Important Wetlands (DIWA). The DIWA aims to prevent further loss of important wetland habitat through better understanding of wetland values and location. It was developed by the Australian Government and each of the State and Territory governments and first published in 1993 with updated editions in 1996 and 2001.

To be included in DIWA, a wetland must meet certain criteria based on Ramsar criteria, refined for the Australian circumstances.

CONTRACTOR AND A CONTRA Natural hazards exposure

The coastline and wetlands are exposed to long term change through coastal hazards of erosion, and sea level rise as well as episodic shocks from severe storms, cyclone and storm tides.

The delicate habitat is also exposed to heatwayes, which like the rainforest areas can impact fauna health.

Coastal erosion and sea level rise are permanent but slow changes to the coast. The episodic shocks may result in more obvious change in the short term.

Loss of dunes and foreshore can impact the nesting of shore birds and decrease habitat for some species.

The beaches of the region vary from flat sandy shores with barely a footprint at Cow Bay or Thornton beach to well-loved and visited beaches such as Four Mile at Port Douglas.

Beaches are home to turtle nesting and shorebird nesting sites.

The Douglas region is home to some spectacular rock formations reflecting the ancient landscape and testament to its continuing evolution.

Rock types across the region indicate adjacent soil types and the vegetation and forest types indicate the minerals found in the underlying soils.

Natural hazards exposure

Impacts in these areas are more likely to be a rock fall rather than landslide.

These coastal rock formations are also exposed to the force of the ocean, but change will be less obvious than beaches.

Rocky shorelines are also important nesting arounds for shorebirds and reptiles.

Rocky Point, Yule Point and Pebbly Beach, Skip Cliff Point, Noah Head and Donovan Point

For regional and state resources try:

Wet Tropics Regional Resilience Strategy Wet Tropics Management Authority **Terrain Natural Resources Management** Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Wetland Info (DIWA)

Get Ready Queensland

The Future Climate Dashboard

For all your local information head to:

Doualas Disaster Dashboard

Download the App

Doualas Shire Disaster and **Emergency Information**

Get in touch with the **Disaster** Management team at

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.

Waterways, wetlands, river deltas and intertidal areas are prominent features of the Douglas landscape from the Daintree to the Dickson

River Deltas

Beaches pepper the coastline from the isolated shores of the far north to the rocky outcrops of the south of the Shire

