

Community Resilience Scorecard

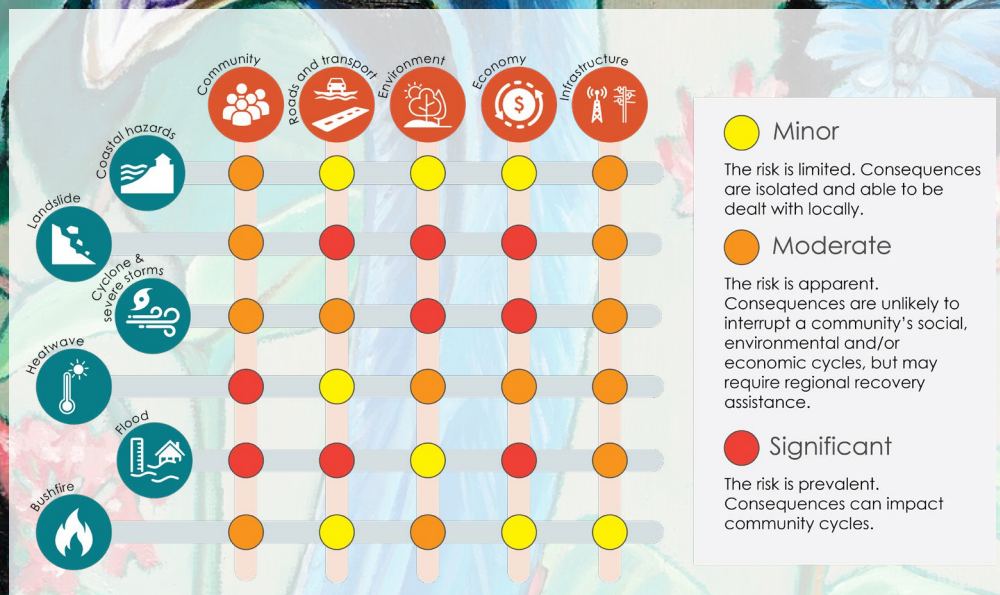
Cape Tribulation (Kulki) to Cape Kimberley (Baku)



**LOCAL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT GROUP**

Disaster Management is everybody's business

We are a unique community dispersed among one of the world's great living wonders. We are a chain of small communities living here because of a connection to the landscape through tourism, retreat or stewardship. We understand the risks of living here and the need to be independent.



RISK STATEMENT

Located in the far north of the Shire, our pockets of coastal and rainforest communities north of the Daintree River share significant risk of cyclone, flood and landslide with the balance of the Shire. Damage to our environment is distressing to us, whether through cyclone debris, wave actions, landslide or heatwave.




Our isolation makes everything harder. The Daintree River ferry and the coast road are our lifeblood. Any interruptions have big impacts. Our economy relies upon physical connection.

But some people live here for the isolation. It's hard to know how many people are here and where they are. Visitors and newcomers may not be aware


of risks in the summer, including how to keep cool in heatwaves and where to find information when monsoons come. This diversity of residents and lifestyles does make us more vulnerable.


Being independent from mains power and utilities helps people understand the need to be ready. Some places will need to adapt to changes along the coastline. Despite the steep slopes and dense forest, the risk of bushfire is not concerning to us.


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

 Off-grid living is the norm in this part of Douglas Shire. There is no mains power and telecommunications can be unreliable.


 Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers undertake 'cool burns' of these landscapes to reduce fire fuel loads. However, the periods in which they can be done safely are getting shorter due to our changing climate.


 The Bloomfield Track is unsealed from Cape Tribulation north to Wujal Wujal. There are several creek crossings and the road can be prone to washouts and fallen debris during the wet season.


 Tourists need to be conscious of the heat. Low intensity heatwaves can be dangerous to travellers not adjusted to our climate.


 The Diwan Medical Clinic is located on Tea Tree Rd. This is the only medical facility on this side of the Daintree River.

 Petrol Station


 Cape Tribulation Rd at Noah Creek is low-lying and is exposed to storm surge events.


 There are big hills along Cape Tribulation Road. These are prone to landslides after heavy rain.

 The Alexandra Bay SES and Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade are located on Tea Tree Rd.

 There are fewer turtles near Thornton Beach - there used to be lots which would nest here.


 Low-lying properties in Cow Bay, Diwan and Thornton Beach are exposed to storm tide.


 Hutchinson Creek used to be a safe place to swim to cool off on hot days, but we are seeing crocodiles here more often.


 Erosion is occurring at Cow Bay.


Forest Creek

Daintree River

 Flood cameras at either side of the Daintree River Ferry.

 Kimberley Rural Fire Brigade

 Mount Alexandra Lookout

 The Daintree River ferry damaged during flooding.

Cape Kimberley

Snapper Island



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



“We are somewhat nervous, especially because communications are patchy in this region, there is also no public information about what the community should do during an emergency situation.”

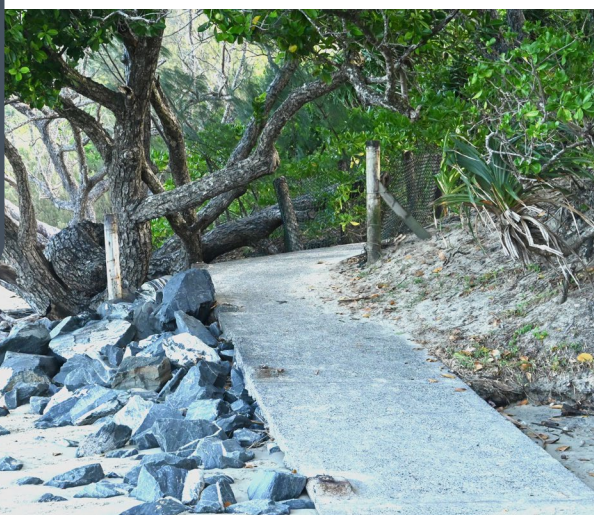
Survey respondent, 2023

“We live here because it’s close to nature, that means it’s not close to help”

Engagement, 2023

“I don’t take the risks for granted but we love this part of the world and choose to be here, so we live with it.”

Survey respondent, 2023



What makes us VULNERABLE?

- People come here for all different reasons – to disconnect, to enjoy seclusion and off-the-grid living. We have a range of absentee landlords, visitors and short-term residents and caretakers who have no lived experience of extreme weather events
- There is nowhere to shelter here so people must be really well prepared and understand everything they need to shelter in place or evacuate early
- Limited infrastructure but that's how we like it sometimes!
- Some elderly people living alone are vulnerable
- Dispersed residents and business – difficult to pinpoint a community centre

Actions for our COMMUNITY

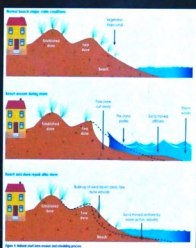
- Support and strengthen SES and RFS in our community
- Work towards having regular information or training opportunities north of Daintree River
- Work with the Local Disaster Management Group and Council for greater awareness in the community
- Discover our community champions to spread the word
- Get to know your neighbours
- How do we inform our visitors and short-term residents best?
- Identify our vulnerable residents and make a plan for their safety



CoastSnap
community beach monitoring

Our dynamic coastline

Our coast is always changing. Powerful storms move sand offshore, which typically returns during calmer conditions. Your snaps help us to understand and manage coastal environments for future generations.



Scan the QR code to see the latest snaps

For more information visit:
www.coastsnap.com



Over time, extreme weather events are likely to become more frequent collectively: more heatwaves, potential for bushfires, perhaps fewer cyclones, but when they come, they may be more powerful, and we may see the seasons change with fires coming earlier and rains coming later.

From the Daintree River to Cape Tribulation, changes to the coast will be evident over time and the community can take part as 'citizen scientists' though Coast Snap.

Coastal hazards include:

- erosion which is constant but can be escalated through severe storm weather;
- potential for large storm tides (see the planning scheme maps link below); and
- sea-level-rise over time which will develop in the extensive low-lying wetlands between the Cooper, Bailey and Hutchinson Creeks and the Daintree River delta.

Check out the **Douglas Resilient Coast Strategy** at:
douglas.qld.gov.au/resilient-coast-strategic-plan/

Did you know?

- The Daintree River Ferry operates as a cable ferry, and during severe weather events, its operations may be temporarily halted for safety reasons. This underscores the importance of early preparation for residents. Whether it's planning an early evacuation or ensuring you have an ample supply of provisions to weather an extended period of isolation, being proactive is key.
- You can stay informed by checking the flood cameras on the [Douglas Disaster Dashboard](#) for real-time updates and signing up to receive SMS or email alerts and warnings related to the ferry service.

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

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

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



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