It could happen here

Despite the presence of the Great Barrier Reef, the Cairns region could be affected by a tsunami. Although the reef may reduce the impact of a tsunami, the scale of impact depends on what caused the tsunami, how far away the event is and where it is in relation to Cairns. The effects of tsunamis originating in locations from Chile to Tonga have been recorded in Queensland since 1868! The Cairns Disaster Management Unit regularly receives information about undersea earthquakes and tsunamis around the world from the Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre.

Although we do not live in a high risk area, our coastal location makes us vulnerable to inundation from the sea. A tsunami could also be triggered on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef. We may have little warning, so it's important to know what to do.

What is a tsunami

Tsunamis are a series of long ocean waves or surges, caused by a major disturbance to the sea floor such as an undersea earthquake, landslide or volcanic eruption. They are different to the storm tide surge which can occur with cyclones and from large waves which can accompany storms. Tsunamis achieve speeds comparable to those of airliners and may travel for hundreds of kilometres, hitting distant communities hours after they are generated. They slow down but grow in size as they come ashore. Rather than one huge wave, a tsunami may look like a rapidly rising or falling tide and occur as a series of waves with periods of time in between. The first wave may not be the largest.

Even a tsunami which sounds small - a metre high or less - can move with force and cause dangerous rips and currents. All warnings should be taken seriously. Tsunamis happen any time of year.

What to do

Having a household emergency plan, a household emergency kit and following local advice will help keep you safe.

Plan

Your household emergency plan should cover where you will go if you need to get to higher ground, how you'll get there and what else you will do if a tsunami warning is given. If you're unable to leave the area quickly and easily, your plan should be to take shelter in the nearest multi storey building. Businesses and schools have their own emergency plans covering tsunami and should advise employees, students and families of procedures annually. Use the maps provided in this brochure to determine where higher ground is and the most direct route to it.

Pack

Your household emergency kit should include basic survival supplies,enough to last three days. If you have to move quickly, put the most important items (water, battery operated radio, cash, ID, snacks, medications, battery operated torch) into a bag or backpack you can easily carry. Take the kit or bag with you if you need to leave the area.

More information on plans and kits is available on our website:
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-information/cyclone-emergency-information/tools
Or contact the Cairns disaster management unit on ***4044 3377***.

Listen

In accordance with the Queensland Tsunami Notification Protocol, the State Disaster Coordination Centre will directly send tsunami warning information to state government departments, other State Disaster Coordination Group members, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) regional offices and District Disaster Coordinators. QFES regional offices forward tsunami warning information to their supported Local Disaster Management Groups. This messaging complements warnings received from the Bureau of Meteorology. The Cairns Local Disaster Management Group is potentially affected by bulletins specific to the "Tropical Waters" Marine Forecast District, which extends from Cardwell to Cape Tribulation. This district also includes the Douglas Shire Council.

Information will be broadcast on all available public media such as radio, TV, web sites and social media and may also be provided by emergency services in areas likely to be affected, eg through loud hailers or door knocking. You may receive emergency alerts through mobile and landline phones and hear the SEWS (Standard Emergency Warning Signal). Keep reading, watching and listening to locally provided information.

If you're at the beach or can see the ocean, you may notice changes such as the water withdrawing or becoming shallow, or unusual or unexpected waves approaching.

Evacuation procedures

Move quickly from low lying areas to higher ground. In many places this is just a few streets away and it will be easiest to walk. Do not drive to Copperlode Dam, the Tablelands or lookouts. Head for your nearest area of higher ground as shown in the maps (see over page for maps).

General safety advice

- If you are at the beach, immediately move inland or to higher ground.
- If your boat is in deep water and offshore, maintain your position.
- If your boat is berthed or in shallow water, secure it and move inland or to higher ground.
- If you are on the coast and cannot move inland, seek shelter in the upper levels of a stable building. Check quickly that neighbours are aware of the situation.
- Don't stay to watch the tsunami.
- Follow local instructions and take immediate action, regardless of how small the tsunami may sound.
- If you need help call the State Emergency Service on 131 500 or use the phone app.

For more information

Cairns Regional Council emergency information
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster

Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre
www.bom.gov.au/tsunami

Pacific TsunamiWarning Centre
www.ptwc.weather.gov

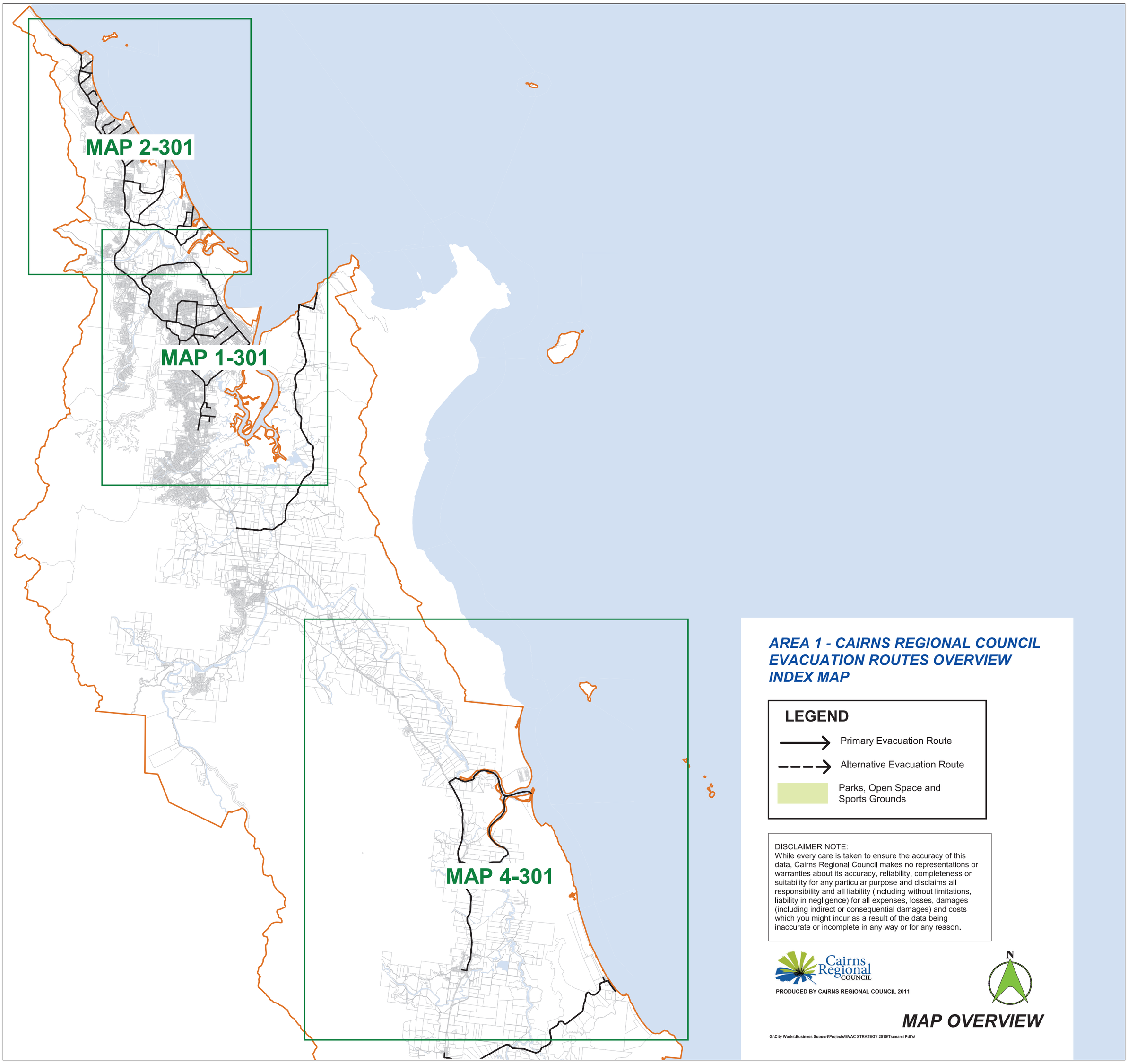
Get Ready Queensland
www.disaster.qld.gov.au

Plan, Pack, Listen

www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster
www.facebook.com/Cairns DCC

CAIRNS TSUNAMI EVACUATION GUIDE

Cairns Regional Council



AREA 1 - CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL EVACUATION ROUTES OVERVIEW INDEX MAP

LEGEND

- Primary Evacuation Route
- Alternative Evacuation Route
- Parks, Open Space and Sports Grounds

DISCLAIMER NOTE:
While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, Cairns Regional Council makes no representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitations, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damages) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way or for any reason.

Cairns Regional Council

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MAP OVERVIEW

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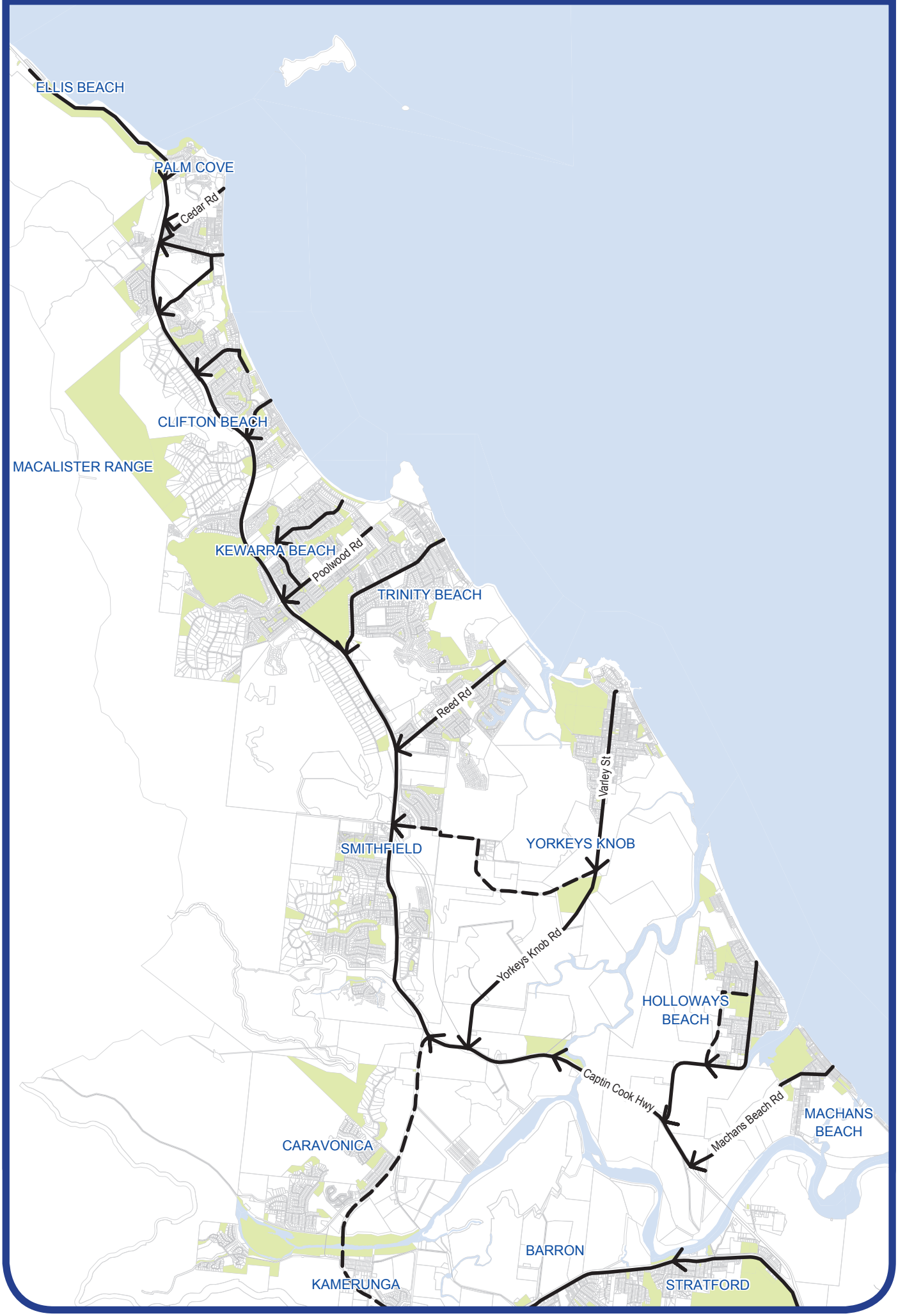
AREA 2 - Northern Beaches Machans Beach to Ellis Beach