

Yorkeys Knob is a quiet coastal community located 13 km from Cairns, separated from residential areas to the west by wetlands and farmland. The township has a mix of low to medium density housing, foreshore parklands with playground, accommodation, a golf club, boating club and marina.



- Historically, Yorkeys Knob beach has experienced significant erosion where southward alongshore sand movement occurred depleting the beach and accreting the beach north of Richters Creek
- A groyne was built in 1960 at the northern end of Yorkeys Knob beach to help stabilise the shoreline following severe cyclone erosion
- Currently dunes provide adequate protection for shoreline change with no engineering structures required
- Important infrastructure and assets are at risk from coastal hazards

WHAT THE COMMUNITY VALUES

- Culturally significant sites
- Beach and foreshore recreational areas
- Bluewater and Yorkeys Knob Marinas
- Half Moon Bay Golf Course and Yorkeys Knob Boating Club
- Mangroves and fish habitat at river mouths

COMMUNITY ADAPTATION PRIORITIES

- Restoring wetlands to protect wildlife habitat
- Creek mouth management
- Avoid long-life assets in coastal hazard areas
- Small groynes and seawalls along the beach
- Dune vegetation and management
- Landfill management review

Local Adaptation Pathways to respond to coastal hazards

(For community assets, based on monitored sea level rise)

		SHORT TERM 0-0.3m	MED TERM 0.3-0.6m	LONG TERM >0.6m
BEACH & FORESHORE MANAGEMENT	• Beach access management (remove unnecessary or informal access, formalise appropriate public paths and inspect and repair access after erosion)	<div><div></div></div>		
	• Beach scraping as required to reinforce dunes and reduce risks of erosion scarps	<div><div></div></div>		
	• Beach nourishment to protect against erosion and maintain / improve beach amenity	<div><div></div></div>		
	• Dune construction focused on the public foreshore adjacent to Sims Esplanade where there is minimal natural buffer	<div><div></div></div>		
MODIFY INFRASTRUCTURE AND HAZARD RESILIENT DESIGN	• Plan to update or relocate existing public infrastructure that is at the end of its design life, including nine sewage pump stations, two public toilet blocks and lengths of sewerage and water pipes	<div><div></div></div>		
	• Relocate existing foreshore park assets that need updating or locate new assets outside the coastal hazard extent	<div><div></div></div>		
	• Manually change land levels or road levels within coastal inundation hazard areas to reduce risk for new or upgraded assets. This should focus on Sims Esplanade	<div><div></div></div>		
COASTAL ENGINEERING	• Maintain or upgrade the existing groyne at the northern end of the beach	<div><div></div></div>		
	• Seawall to protect public assets along Sims Esplanade and a breakwater to protect Yorkeys Knob marina where dune management and beach nourishment are not viable	<div><div></div></div>		
	• Tidal gate may be required near the mouth of Half Moon Creek at Trinity Park	<div><div></div></div>		
ACCEPT THE RISK AND EMBRACE COASTAL PROCESSES	• Allow erosion of the foreshore in areas that do not have critical assets, such as the spit near the entrance to Yorkeys Creek	<div><div></div></div>		
	• Progressively review or relocate infrastructure as inundation encroaches on assets. This may be a last resort option for areas along Sims Esplanade and around Half Moon Bay Golf Club	<div><div></div></div>		