

Holloways Beach Erosion Management



Sand erosion poses a risk to the amenity of our beaches, the vegetation that lines them and nearby properties and infrastructure. Cairns Regional Council has been addressing this ongoing issue on the Northern Beaches for many years, with a particular focus on Holloways Beach and Clifton Beach.

What has Council done so far?

- Continued to add sand at Holloways Beach and Clifton Beach. Unfortunately, this is not a sustainable solution due to the high cost and unpredictability of how long the sand will stay in place.
- Developed a new Shoreline Erosion Management Plan with options to mitigate erosion, including construction of two groynes at Holloways Beach in 2021 that have proven effective.
- Undertook a Sand Sourcing Study to see how much sand is available and where it can be secured for the purpose of beach nourishment.

What is Council's future solution?

Council intends to install three rock breakwaters at Holloways Beach and Clifton Beach. These are physical structures placed near the shore, running parallel to the beach, which:

- Mimic naturally occurring rock formation to encourage sand retention.
- Have proven successful in other parts of Queensland and overseas.
- Reduce the frequency and cost of sand nourishment.
- Retain the beach's amenity for users.



Redesign following TC Jasper

The Holloways Beach breakwaters have been redesigned with consideration of the changes to the foreshore caused by Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

The northern-most breakwater at Holloways Beach may cause further changes to the foreshore as shown in the diagram (see other side). Council will manage and maintain this area under an adaptive management plan.

What happens next?

After obtaining the necessary approvals and subject to funding availability, Council expects to install the breakwaters this year.

Construction Program (subject to change):

- Holloways Beach: Commencing September 2024
- Clifton Beach: Commencing February 2025

The breakwaters won't stop sand erosion completely and Council will still need to add sand in the future, however the frequency of nourishment will be significantly reduced.

Council will continue to address erosion at other beaches through the usual initiatives such as sand nourishment.

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The breakwaters are designed to be:

- Detached from the foreshore, approx. 20m offshore
- Approx 15m long, parallel to the beach
- Crest level 600mm above the highest annual tide

