



# ROUND ISLAND – LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018





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#### 1. DETAILS AND TENURE OF THE SUBJECT LAND

Land Manager: Fraser Coast Regional Council as Trustee

Lot: 1 Plan: MCH2821

Address: Shelly Bank Great Sandy Strait QLD 4655

Local Government: Fraser Coast Regional Council

Area of land (in hectares): 1.11

Tenure: Reserve

#### 2. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Fraser Coast Regional Council, as the management authority for Round Island has rights, powers and responsibilities derived from the Land Act 1994.
- Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Law No.4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011 provides the basis for Council management of public use of the reserve and restricts and regulates certain activities. This strategy recommends that the island be retained as a recreational day use area and that camping be prohibited.
- Council is also bound by State legislation in the management of this reserve, including the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Fraser Coast Planning Scheme (2014). Other applicable legislation includes the Queensland Biosecurity Act (2014), Qld Fire and Emergency Services Act (1990), Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999), Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, Commonwealth Native Title Act (1993) and the Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (2003).
- Council also has various strategies applicable to the management of this reserve, including the Fraser Coast Regional Council Fire Management Strategy and the Fraser Coast Regional Council Pest Management / Biosecurity Plan.
- Restoration of natural ecosystem areas within the site will be carried out according to the principles set out in the South East Queensland Ecological Restoration Framework.

#### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT LAND

#### Description and history of the land:

- The Butchulla people are the traditional owners of the area.
- The island is situated approximately 1.5km north-east of the Urangan Boat Harbour at the northern end of Great Sandy Strait. Big Woody Island and Fraser Island lie further east. Access is via boat only.
- The island was noted in the log of Matthew Flinders in 1799 when he landed on it, finding evidence of human visitation. He named the small island Curlew Islet. This was the first recorded European landing on the Fraser Coast, and is commemorated with the Flinders memorial on the cliff overlooking the island at Dayman Park. It

was later named as Round Island by Lieutenant Dayman in 1847 during his survey of Great Sandy Strait and Hervey Bay.

- Round Island was gazetted as a reserve for the purpose of Recreation on 22 December 1962. The Hervey Bay City Council was appointed the trustee on 18 December 1984. Since local government amalgamations in 2008 the reserve has been managed by the Fraser Coast Regional Council.
- The main use of the island has been for ad hoc recreation but in the 1970s and 1980's it was used as a venue for music concerts and also as a stage for setting off New Year's Eve fireworks displays. A barbecue area was constructed there and the island used during the 1990's as a venue for commercial tourist excursions. A nesting pole for Ospreys was constructed on the island in the 1990's by volunteers. School groups were taken there for nature based educational activities in the past.
- Weed control and rubbish removal has been undertaken regularly by community groups with the support of Council staff.



# Locality Map

## Existing uses:

- Round Island is reserved under the Land Act 1994 for community use. Council is required to manage the land consistent with the designated purpose and in the public interest. Use must be appropriate for the purpose and qualities of the land, and not substantially exclusive and/or commercial in nature.
- The reserve is currently used for a variety of low impact day use recreational activities including boating, fishing, and picnics, swimming and walking. It is a stop off point for visitors in private and commercial tourist boats.
- Round Island is zoned as "Environmental Management and Conservation" in the Fraser Coast Planning Scheme 2014.
- One commercial operator is currently approved to conduct day tours to the island.
- Council Local Law No. 4 includes provisions to protect health and safety and preserve natural and built features and amenity. Camping is prohibited on the island under the Local Law.

# Existing interests:

• There are no existing interests related to the reserve.

# Existing infrastructure:

The site hosts embellishments all of which appear to have been installed by individuals or community groups and none of which are maintained by the Council:

- Shelter shed and picnic tables (poor condition but still usable)
- Toilet ("thunderbox", poor condition not usable)
- Picnic tables (poor to fair condition some usable)
- Bench seats (one in good condition the remainder in poor condition)
- BBQ and metal storage boxes (poor condition not usable)
- Raptor nesting pole (poor condition not usable)

# Detailed site description:

- Round Island is a small oval shaped coral sand island situated on a rocky substrate at the northern end of Great Sandy Strait. No part of the island is more than about 1.5 metres above sea level. Shallow waters with a rocky sea bed are situated to the north. The area to the east of the island is an area of shallow sand, rock bars and coral which extend to nearby Big Woody Island.
- The main boating channel with deeper waters is between the island and the mainland to the west. Boating access is mainly from the southern side onto a sandy beach.
- The island is highly influenced by the action of wind, tides and waves. The rock bar provides the solid base on which the island is located. Cycles of sand accretion and loss occur both daily and over longer time periods.
- The remains of dead trees particularly on the north-eastern beach indicate that erosion results in tree loss. However this appears to be balanced by the growth of new vegetation.
- The size and shape of the island is not constant, however despite its seeming fragility it has persisted over a long time period.
- Air photography confirms that in the mid 1950's much of the island was covered in grasses and forbs with a narrow line of shrubs along the north and north-west sides. Over the years woody vegetation has increased and spread across parts of the island.
- No remnant vegetation is mapped on the island probably because of its small size. A vegetation survey conducted in May 2017 revealed the presence of regional ecosystem 12.2.14 Fore dune complex: Strand and fore dune complex comprising *Spinifex sericeus* grassland *Casuarina equisetifolia* subsp. *incana* low woodland/open forest.
- Floristic diversity of the site is determined by colonisation of wind and water borne propagules of species adapted to dunal conditions and seed dispersal by birds.
- Significant flora species present on the island include *Alyxia stellata* (black chain fruit), *Argusia argentea* (octopus bush) and *Thuarea involuta* (tropical beach grass). The island is at the southern limit of the distribution of these three species.
- The vegetation present is critical to the stability of the island, due to its relatively small size and the dynamic effects of wind and water.
- The island is a habitat and breeding area for migratory shore birds, some of which are protected under international agreements and under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992. These are *Egretta sacra* (eastern reef egret) and *Esacus neglectus* (beach stone-curlew).
- The dominant sea bird is *Phalacrocorax varius* (pied cormorant) which has an established nesting colony in trees on the island. This activity causes damage to trees and results in the death of larger trees from time to time.
- Council staff are sometimes called upon to remove dead seabirds on island trees which have been caught in discarded fishing line.

- The site is susceptible to the impacts of storms and over the long term, sea level rise.
- An obvious sand track has resulted from pedestrian foot traffic across the island to access the picnic area. Visitors tend to avoid the more densely vegetated areas and the area in the vicinity of the cormorant nests and instead walk around the island along the open beach.
- Ground nesting birds may be at risk from the impacts of human visitation.
- There is evidence of infrequent camp fires however this does not appear to be a common activity. If camp fires were to become more common, the effects of scavenging for wood fuel would threaten vegetation and increase erosion.
- The site is exposed to wind and water borne weeds as well as those which may be brought in by people. Weed species present are adapted to the harsh conditions experienced on the island which include high salinity, lack of fresh water and wind exposure.
- Some weed species previously present on the island appear to have been eradicated and others greatly reduced due to control efforts. However a variety of groundcover weed species remain in relatively high numbers.
- The most serious weed species present is *Opuntia stricta* (prickly pear), which is a category 3 restricted invasive plants under the Biosecurity Act 2014. The spines on living and dead plants are a hazard for visitors who venture into the vegetated area away from the beach.
- A search conducted on 29 May 2017 of the Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register revealed that no Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were recorded on the register for the area of the reserve.
- Three small memorials are located on the island. These are not maintained by Council and appear to have been placed there by family members. No other significant European cultural heritage is known on the reserve.

#### Native title status:

- The QC2009/005 Butchulla Land & Sea Claim #2 native title application covers this area. It was accepted for registration under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* on 30 June 2010.
- Before Council undertakes any activity, project or initiative on the site which has the potential to affect Native Title then further investigations should be made at the planning stage. To assist with this staff can consult the Native Title Compliance Fact Sheet Docs# 2406129 and the Native Title Compliance Checklist Community Purpose Reserves Docs# 2842428.
- Given that the island has never been extensively developed it is possible that native title still exists on the land.

#### 4. PROPOSED USES/S OF THE SUBJECT LAND

#### Proposed use/s of the land:

- It is proposed to continue to use the land for nature based recreation which is consistent with the designated purpose of the reserve. Continuation of this use is appropriate given the location of the island and values present.
- Management actions proposed are intended to protect environmental and natural amenity values.
- Existing facilities that exist and that are assessed as being unsafe or unusable will be removed.
- Camping and fires will not be permitted on the island due to its small size, the lack of facilities and ecological sensitivity.

#### Secondary uses:

- Current and proposed uses are considered to be consistent with the designated community use of the reserve. No inconsistent uses have been approved by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- There are no current or proposed secondary uses i.e. uses authorised by the issue of a trustee lease or trustee permit.

#### Constraints and opportunities:

- Physical constraints include the small size of the island, susceptibility to wind and water erosion and the lack of water, power and road access.
- An opportunity exists to provide a venue for a unique visitor experience in an attractive location easily visited by boat while still protecting environmental values.

#### **Development intended:**

• No intensification of current low impact day use is proposed.

#### 5. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

• Members of the public with an interest in the management of the reserve will be invited to make submissions on the plan for consideration during the public exhibition process

#### 6. GOALS AND ACTIONS OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### Goal Statement:

Protect and enhance the significant natural features of Round Island while continuing to allow recreational access to day visitors.

# Management Strategy 1: Geology, landform, hydrology and soils

#### Desired Outcomes

• Geological and soils landscapes are protected from human disturbance.

#### Management Strategies

**S1.1** Do not undertake any new works that may adversely impact on water quality or soils.

**S1.2** Remove old infrastructure that is no longer usable in the picnic barbecue area to reduce foot traffic and track erosion.

**S1.3** Continue to undertake weed removal in a staged manner which avoids exposing large areas of sand and limit erosion in these areas.

**S1.4** Avoid the use of persistent herbicides in weed control activities.

#### Management Strategy 2: Native plants

#### Desired Outcomes

- The full range of native plant species found on the site is protected.
- Vegetation structure and habitat values are conserved across the site and are restored where subject to past disturbance.
- Significant plant communities are protected.
- Knowledge of significant flora and vegetation communities is increased.

#### Management Strategies

**S2.1 Monitor** visitor impacts and take action to ensure that visitation does not result in deterioration of native vegetation.

**S2.2** Reduce the footprint of existing picnic area facilities in order to protect significant vegetation.

**S2.3** Carry out weed management to ensure that native vegetation is restored and protected.

**S2.4** Monitor the island to assess the condition of native vegetation and use the results to refine restoration practices.

**S2.5** Allow natural regeneration of native vegetation in all area and avoid supplementary plantings unless conditions change and this becomes necessary.

**S2.6** If supplementary planting becomes necessary only use plants propagated from locally sourced material.

**S2.7** Control all declared weeds and those environmental weeds that are a threat to native vegetation.

**S2.8** Encourage and support the involvement of local community groups in vegetation monitoring and management through the Community Environment Program and partnerships with other conservation organisations.

**S2.9** Prohibit camp fires within the reserve in order to protect existing native vegetation from users scavenging for firewood.

#### Management Strategy 3: Native animals

#### Desired Outcomes

- There is continued protection and increased viability for all native animal communities in the reserve.
- No population decline or habitat loss for significant fauna will occur.
- The diversity of native animals in the area is conserved.
- Knowledge of ecology and distribution of fauna species is increased.

#### Management Strategies

**S3.1 Monitor** visitor impacts and take action to ensure that visitation does not result in deterioration of wildlife habitat.

**S3.2** Reduce the footprint of existing picnic area facilities in order to enhance significant wildlife habitat.

**S3.3** Protect and enhance the habitat of native animal populations by controlling pest animals (if any are found to be present in future) and careful weed removal.

**S3.4** Facilitate fauna surveys to identify the presence and abundance of fauna such as birds, insects (including butterflies and moths), reptiles (lizards are likely to be present) and mammals (may not be present).

**S3.5** Encourage and support involvement of local community groups in fauna monitoring through the Community Environment Program and partnerships with other conservation organisations.

**S3.6** Avoid rapid, large scale control of pest plants to ensure that there are no abrupt changes in the availability of fauna habitat such as habitat for small birds (See Pest plants and animals).

**S3.7** Promote public understanding and appreciation of native animals to increase awareness of local fauna conservation issues.

#### Management Strategy 4: Pest plants and animals

#### Desired Outcomes

- Adverse impacts of pest plants and animals on native flora and fauna are prevented or minimised.
- Pests are eradicated using methods that minimise disturbance and maximise benefits to natural systems and conservation values.

- No new pests become established in the reserve.
- Meet the obligations of pest control under the Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014 and Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Law No 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011.

## Management Strategies

S4.1 Carry out careful weed removal and control

**S4.2** Eradicate *Opuntia vulgaris* (prickly pear) from the reserve area as a priority and monitor the site for new infestations.

**S4.3** Monitor for the re-appearance of weed species that may have already been eradicated.

**S4.4** Continue to reduce the number of other weed species with the eventual aim of removing all weed species from the island.

**S4.5** Record pest species and populations in the Council Pest Central spatial database. Make information from the database accessible to all Council officers via the Geographic Information System (GIS).

**S4.6** Avoid rapid, large scale control of pest plants to ensure that there are no abrupt changes in the availability of fauna habitat such as habitat for small birds.

**S4.7** Monitor for the appearance of pest animals and undertake a control program when required.

**S4.8** Continue to undertake weed removal in a staged manner which avoids exposing large areas of sand and limit erosion in these areas.

**S4.9** Avoid the use of persistent herbicides in weed control activities.

#### Management Strategy 5: Fire management

#### Desired Outcomes

- Fire is excluded from the island.
- Unplanned fires are prevented.

#### Management Strategies

**S5.1** Maintain the fire resistant natural vegetation on the island.

**S5.2** Prohibit camp fires within the reserve

#### Management Strategy 6: Cultural heritage

#### Desired Outcomes

• Aboriginal sites, places and landscapes of significance are conserved and protected from damage.

• There is cooperative and integrated management of Aboriginal places and relics with the Aboriginal community and relevant agencies.

#### Management Strategies

**S6.1** Consult Aboriginal people who have a traditional association with the land and relevant State and Commonwealth Aboriginal heritage authorities, in decisions regarding the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, including identification of sites and actions to protect sites and landscape features.

**S6.2** Undertake cultural heritage assessments prior to any major new works and developments likely to impact on Aboriginal heritage values in accordance with the requirements of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

**S6.3** Conduct a search of the Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register as part of any new cultural heritage assessment.

**S6.4** Undertake further investigations before undertaking any activity, project or initiative on the site which has the potential to affect native title. When planning works on the site then staff to consult the Native Title Compliance Fact Sheet Docs# 2406129 and the Native Title Compliance Checklist - Community Purpose Reserves Docs# 2842428.

#### Management Strategy 7: Managing recreation

#### Desired Outcomes

- Recreation opportunities are facilitated and low key visitor facilities that encourage appreciation of the islands natural values are provided.
- Facilities and allowed activities are designed and managed to provide a satisfying and safe visitor experience while minimising negative environmental and social impacts.
- Visitor use is compatible with its designation as a reserve for the purpose of recreation.

#### Management Strategies

**S7.1** Maintain the area so that facilities, visitor use and management actions do not adversely impact on significant environmental features and amenity.

**S7.2** Reduce the footprint of existing picnic area facilities in order to enhance significant wildlife habitat.

**S7.3** Remove the disused barbecue, rusting metal storage boxes, toilet building and any unsafe seating or structures from the island.

**S7.4** Retain seating and picnic tables that are in good condition and add these to the Councils maintenance and replacement program.

**S7.5** Consider installing signage to inform visitors about the values of the island and include information relating to removal of rubbish, avoiding disturbance of nesting birds and the prohibition of camping and fires.

## Management Strategy 8: Community involvement

#### Desired Outcomes

- To engender appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the reserves values and support for their ongoing protection.
- To encourage community and visitor involvement in the conservation and management of the area.
- Partnerships with organisations and statutory bodies that assist with the management of the area.

#### Management Strategies

**S8.1** Maintain up to date signage which ensures that relevant and informative information is provided to visitors.

**S8.2** Provide visitor information which promotes the natural values of the island.

**S8.3** Encourage and facilitate the involvement of community volunteers in reserve management through the Community Environment Program and partnerships with community organisations.

#### 7. BUDGET STATEMENT

Actions outlined within the final adopted Land Management Plans will be considered for inclusion in the annual budget process.

#### 8. MONITORING AND REVISION

#### Timetable:

Annual monitoring of reserve area will be undertaken. This plan will be reviewed after five years (2022).

#### Techniques:

Walk around the island and photograph key areas such as beach scarps, internal pedestrian paths, the picnic area and bird breeding areas. Check general health of vegetation including for the presence of weeds. Check for the presence of rubbish and campfires.

#### Community feedback:

Information about the reserve and management will be made available on the FCRC website along with an invitation to the public to provide ongoing input.

## 9. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The reserve will be managed primarily for protection of environmental and scenic values. The footprint of the existing picnic area will be reduced and disused and unsafe facilities will be removed. Island vegetation will be retained and restored by the gradual removal of weed competition. Visitation for low impact water-based recreation will continue to be allowed while camping and lighting of fires will be prohibited.

Where further embellishments or development is proposed, details of those works will be included in a Parks Masterplan which will be placed on public exhibition and considered by Council.

# 10. APPENDICES

# Appendix A Site Map



Appendix B Native plant species list

Round Island Shelly Bank Regional ecosystem: 12.2.14 AMG 56J 492560E 7203160N MGA94 Collector/s: Juliet Musgrave and Tony van Kampen Survey Date: 17/03/2013

Notes: Island with dunal system and headland species, mainly *Casuarina* and *Cupaniopsis* spp. upper storey. Several large dead figs near eastern side of island. Dense stand of *Argusia* on south-western side. Additional species added from field inspection on 28/05/2017.

Status: C = Least Concern N = Near Threatened V = Vulnerable E = Endangered

## Total native species = 25

#### 1/06/2017

Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
С	Acacia disparrima subsp. disparrima	hickory wattle
С	Alyxia stellata	black chain fruit
С	Argusia argentea	octopus bush
С	Avicennia marina subsp. australasica	grey mangrove
С	Canavalia rosea	coastal jack bean
С	Carpobrotus glaucescens	pigface
С	Cassytha filiformis	devil's twine
С	Casuarina equisetifolia subsp. incana	coast she-oak
С	Clematicissus opaca	small-leaved water vine
С	Cupaniopsis anacardioides	tuckeroo
С	Dianella longifolia	smooth flax lily
С	Drypetes deplanchei	yellow tulip
С	Eragrostis interrupta	lovegrass
С	Euphorbia tannensis subsp. tannensis	coastal native spurge
С	Ficus opposita	sandpaper fig
С	Ficus rubiginosa forma glabrescens	smooth leaved fig
С	Jasminum didymum subsp. racemosum	small-leaved jasmine
С	Myoporum acuminatum	boobialla
С	Oxalis perennans	grassland wood sorrel
С	Sesuvium portulacastrum	sea purslane
С	Sophora tomentosa subsp. australis	necklace bean
С	Spinifex sericeus	beach spinifex
С	Stephania japonica var. discolor	tape vine
С	Thuarea involuta	tropical beach grass
С	Wollastonia uniflora	native wedelia

Appendix C Weed species list

Round Island Shelly Bank Regional ecosystem: 12.2.14 AMG 56J 492560E 7203160N MGA94 Collector/s: Juliet Musgrave and Tony van Kampen Survey Date: 17/03/2013

Notes: Additional species added from field inspection on 28/05/2017. Status: \* = weed species 3 = Category 3 restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

#### Total weed species = 18

#### 1/06/2017

Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
*	Aloe vera var. officinalis	aloe vera
3	Asparagus aethiopicus cv. Sprengeri	basket asparagus
*	Bidens pilosa	cobbler's pegs
*	Catharanthus roseus	pink periwinkle
*	Cenchrus ciliaris	buffel grass
*	Cenchrus echinatus	Mossman River grass
*	Ipomoea cairica	mile-a-minute vine
3	Lantana camara	lantana
*	Macroptilium atropurpureum	siratro
*	Megathyrsus maximus var. pubiglumis	green panic
*	Melinis repens	red natal grass
3	Opuntia stricta	prickly pear
*	Passiflora suberosa	corky passion flower
*	Rivina humilis	coral berry
3	Schinus terebinthifolius	broad-leaved pepper tree
*	Solanum nodiflorum	blackberry nightshade
*	Sonchus oleraceus	common sowthistle
*	Stellaria media	chickweed

# Appendix D Bird species list

Round Island Shelly Bank AMG 56J 492560E 7203160N MGA94 Collector/s: Andrea Van Kampen Survey Date: 28/05/2017 Lesley Bradley Survey Date: unknown

# Total bird species = 12

## 8/06/2017

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Australian pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus	
Australian pied oystercatcher	Haematopus longirostris	
beach stone-curlew	Esacus neglectus	Vulnerable (Qld, NCA)
black-faced cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	
eastern reef egret	Egretta sacra	Both morphs present – grey and white. Protected under International Agreement
little pied cormorant	Phalacrocorax melanoleucos	
osprey	Pandion cristatus	
pied cormorant	Phalacrocorax varius	Nesting colony with chicks
red-capped dotterel	Charadrius (Charadrius) ruficapillus	
silver gull	Larus novaehollandiae	
white-faced heron	Egretta novaehollandiae	
willie wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	