



Huskiisson Beach Management Action Plan (draft)

2014 World Hobie Cat Championships

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Draft Huskisson Beach Management Action Plan

Background

Huskisson Beach is a valuable community asset with a number of identified stakeholders, each bringing a different set of values and aspirations for its use and management.

The Draft Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) 2012 states,

'The Huskisson/Vincentia area and the Ulladulla/Mollymook area are the key centres for future growth (DoP South Coast Regional Strategy, 2007). Seventy five percent of the coastal population of Shoalhaven City Council lives in these two areas (SCC Population Profile, 2007). The white sands of the Jervis Bay beaches and the low wave energy, low gradient beaches are a major attraction for visitors. Both local residents and visitors also value foreshore access ways for walking and cycling.'

There are six Council plans relating to the foreshore of Huskisson Beach. It has become clear that these plans need integrating into one document so that effective consultation can be undertaken with the Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice (HWCV), the wider community and Council staff.

In August 2013, a sand ramp was formed for use as an emergency access to the beach.

The ramp was an identified action in the Coast & Estuaries Asset Management Plan and was also an approved requirement for the 2014 World Hobie Cat Championships.

The formation of the ramp came as a surprise to the community and the HWCV requested clarity regarding future works for the Huskisson Beach foreshore.

A site meeting was held on Thursday November 21, 2013 with members of the HWCV and Council staff to discuss the various plans shown in Figure 1, and to begin the task of integrating and clarifying the management actions for Huskisson Beach.

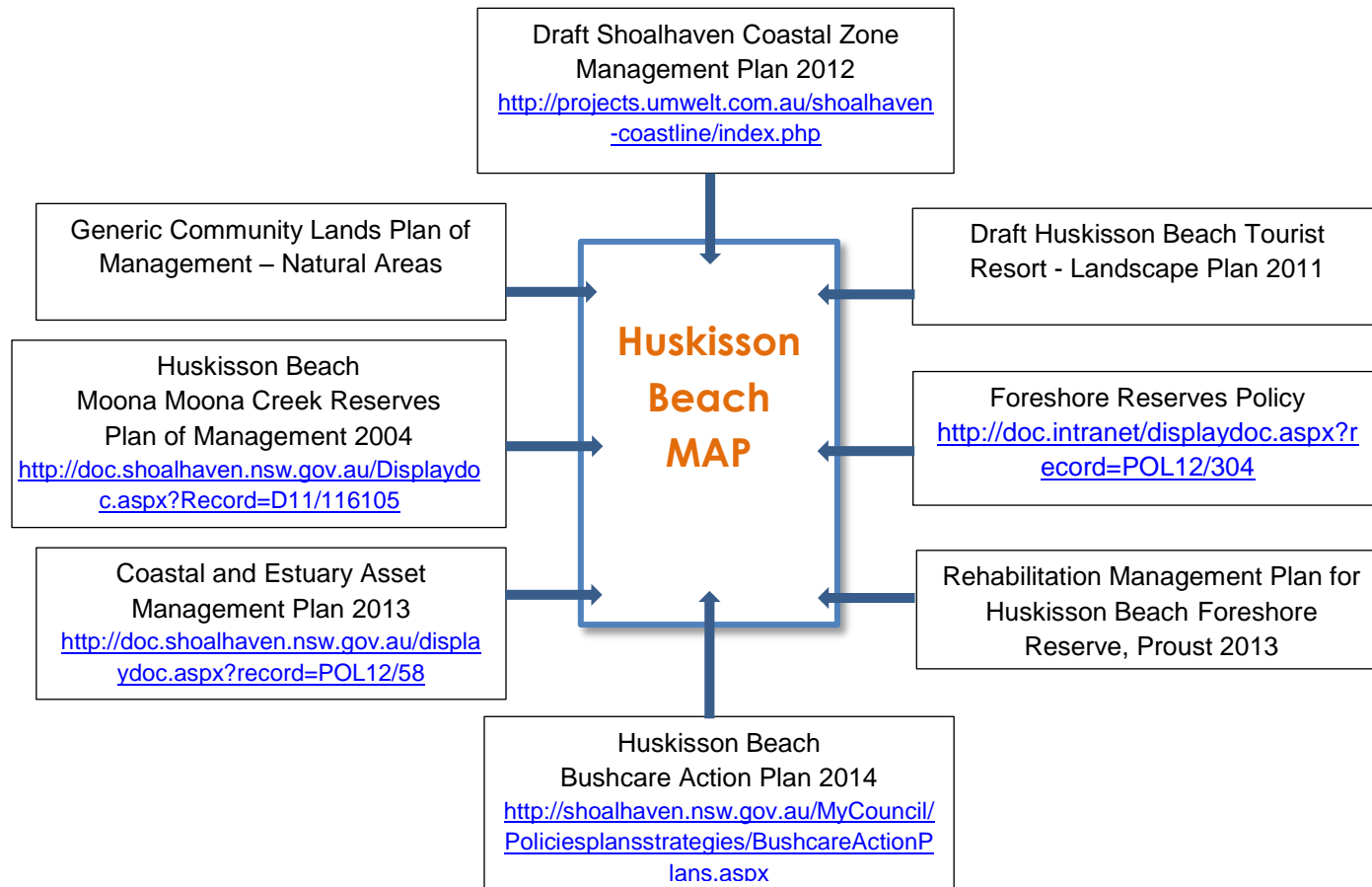
A second site meeting was held on February 22, 2014 with Council's Coast & Estuaries Assistant and two members of the HWCV subcommittee for Huskisson Beach foreshore to further discuss and clarify the details of the draft Huskisson Beach Management Action Plan (MAP).

The Huskisson Beach MAP will be reported to Council through the Central Natural Resources Management and Floodplain Committee. The recommendation to Council will be to adopt the MAP as an implementation plan under the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan.

The Huskisson Beach MAP will serve as a template for consolidating existing plans and identifying management actions at other Council managed beaches.

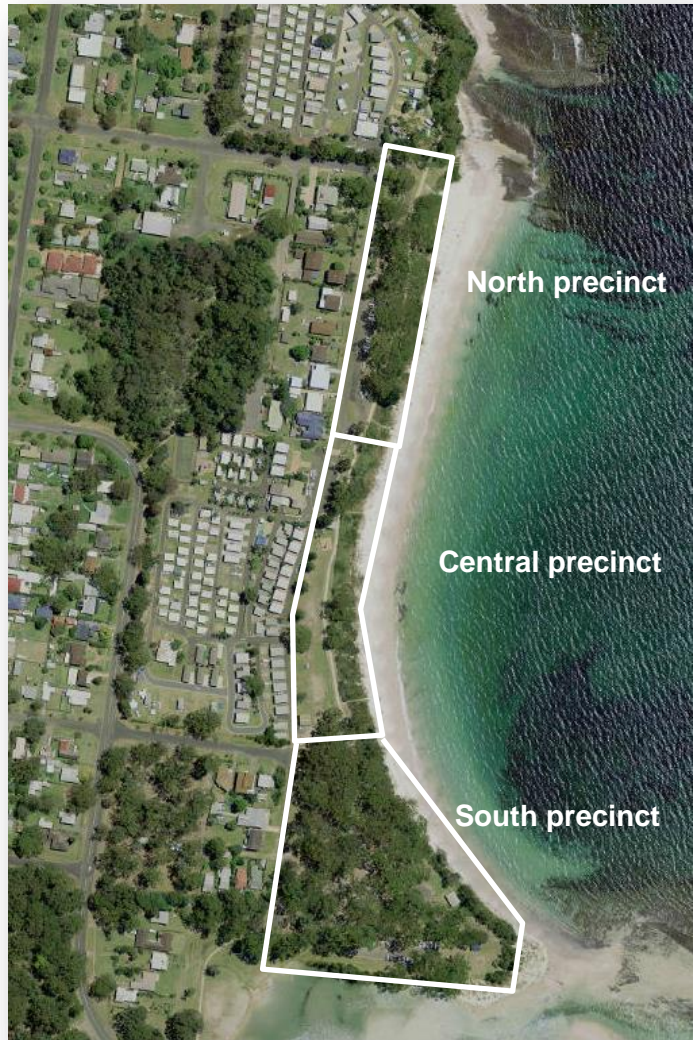
Aim

The aim of the Huskisson Beach MAP is to consolidate existing documents into one simple plan which will serve as the guide to management actions at Huskisson Beach and foreshore reserves for three to five years.



Precincts

The foreshore falls into three distinct management precincts with a range of existing facilities and natural features.



North precinct: approximately 1 ha

- Open, shaded grassy areas
- Easy access to the beach (gentle grade)
- Emergency vehicle access to Beach
- Park facilities – seating, shower, picnic tables, bins
- Used for small to large scale events
- Parking on Beach St

Central precinct: approximately 1.1 ha

- Beach access from Huskisson Beach Resort (Holiday Haven Tourist Park)
- Open, grassy area used mostly by HH guests
- Park facilities – seating, shower, picnic tables, picnic shelter, bins
- Limited natural shade
- No parking

South precinct: approximately 2.8 ha

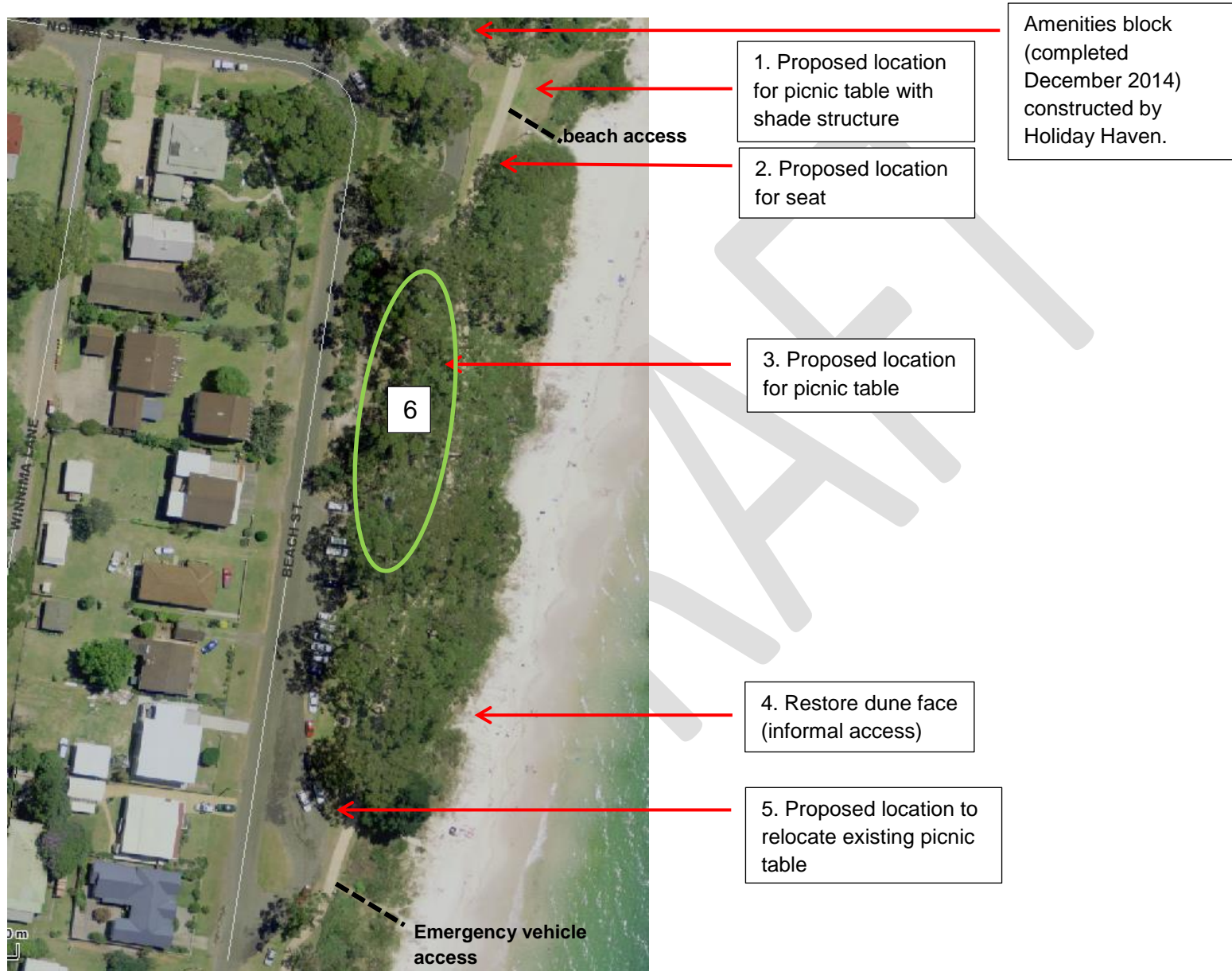
- Access to the Beach and Moona Moona Creek
- Very popular recreation area for families
- Shaded grassy areas
- Park facilities - playground, public amenities, shower, picnic tables and shelter, bins and parking
- Dune is steeper and vegetation more diverse than other precincts
- Used for large events e.g. Australia Day & Duck Derby
- Heavily utilised during school holidays often resulting in conflict between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Parking at north and south

Management objectives common to all three precincts

- **Strengthen dune resilience**
- **Assist shade tree succession**
- **Rationalise mown areas**
- **Enhance park facilities for future events and passive recreation**
- **Manage conflict between competing uses.**

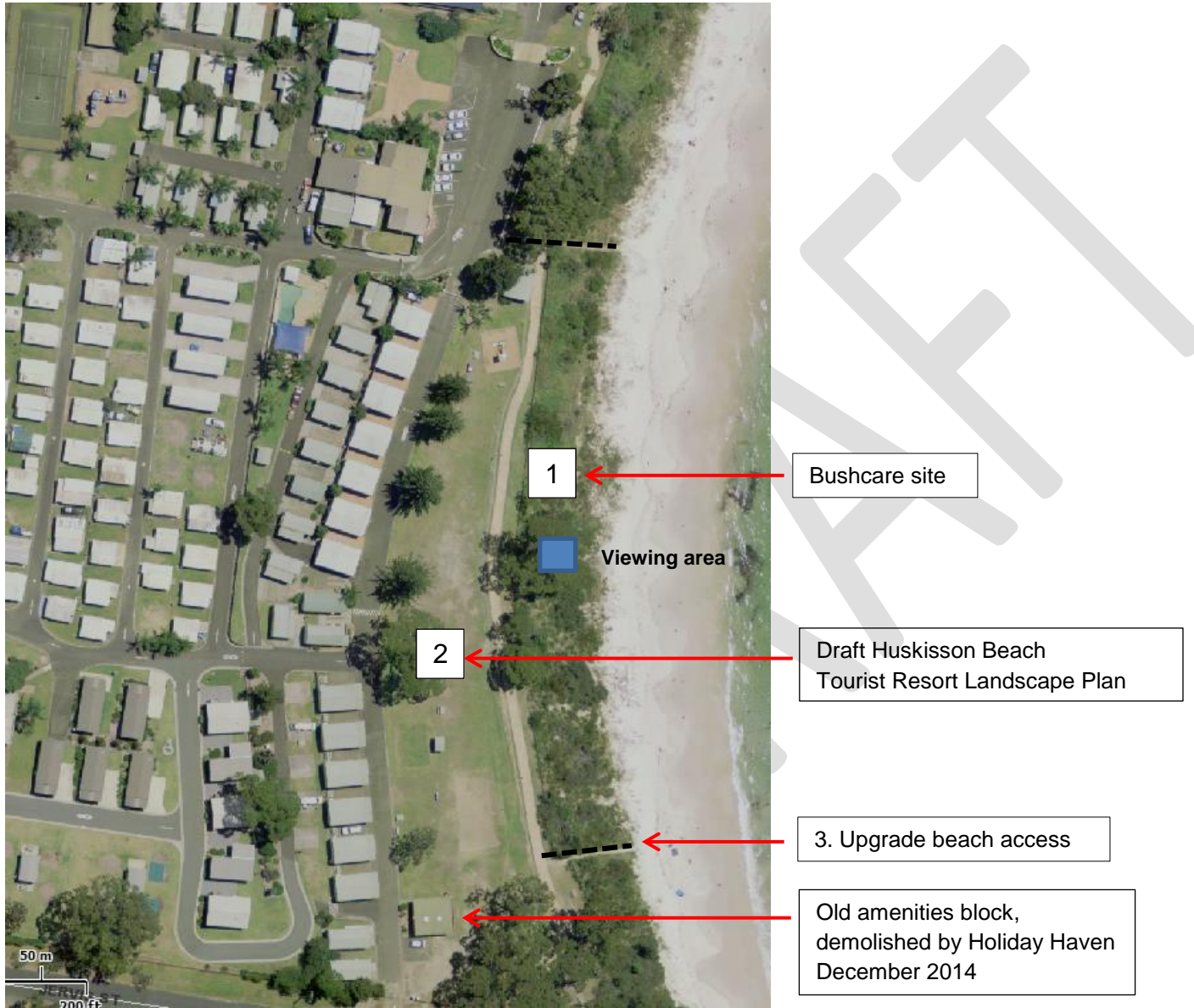
Precinct specific management objectives are outlined in the tables below.

1. North Precinct: events and passive recreation



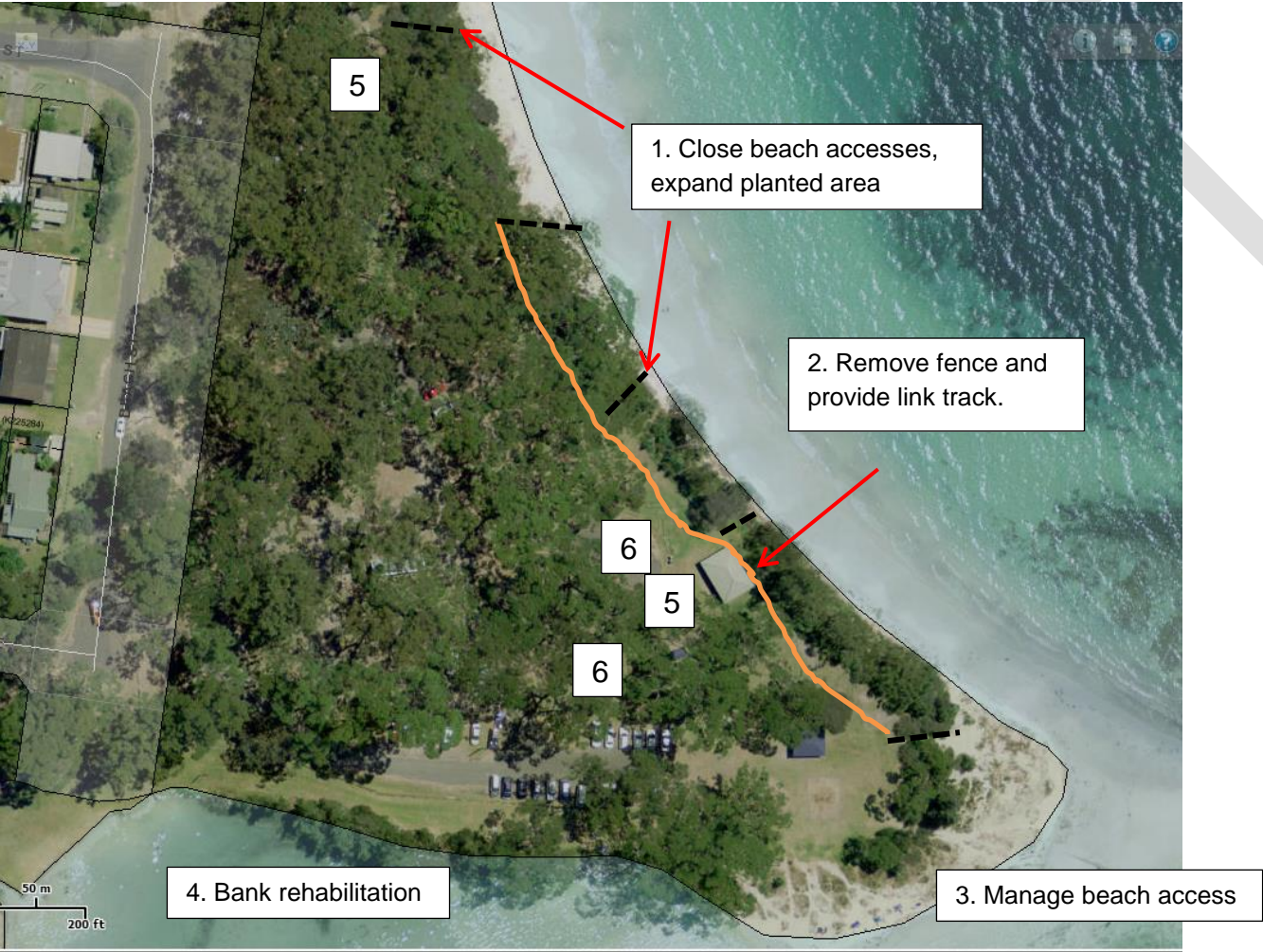
North Precinct implementation table					
Objective	Action & map reference	Plant species	Cost estimate	Responsibility	Priority
Enhance park facilities	<p>No. 1: Investigate provision of new picnic table with shade structure located near beach access, new public amenities and shower.</p> <p>No. 2: Investigate provision of new seat on eastern side of shared path. This may need to be a memorial seat.</p> <p>No. 3: Investigate provision of new picnic table in shade on western side of shared path.</p>	n/a	\$15,000	Social Infrastructure Officer	3
Strengthen dune resilience	No. 4: Restore dune face & revegetate following relocation of picnic table	Lomandra longifolia, (Spiny Mat-rush) Carpobrotus glaucescens (Pig face), Isolepis nodosa (Knobby Club-rush)	\$5000	Coast & Estuaries Officer	2
	No. 5: Investigate relocation of picnic table in order to discourage use of informal access and encourage use of the formal, maintained access. Informal access can then be restored.	n/a	\$5000	Coast & Estuaries Officer	1
	For the length of the precinct: Weed control (including Acacia saligna) and planting with view lines considered.	Lomandra longifoia, Carpobrotus glaucescens, Banksia integrifolia (Coast Banksia)	\$5,000	Coast & Estuaries Officer	1
Assist shade tree succession	No. 6: Mulch around groups of trees & limit mowing to encourage natural regeneration.	n/a	\$5000	Manager Parks Operations / maintenance supervisor	2
	Potential for planting established trees for National Tree Day. Site selection will ensure existing open areas, used for event facilities, are not compromised.	Eucalyptus pilularis (Blackbutt), Eucalyptus botryoides (Bangalay)	\$1,000 per year for 3 or 4 established trees.	Tree Management Officer	2

2. Central Precinct: Holiday Haven Resort 'activities hub'



Central Precinct implementation table					
Objective	Action & map reference	Plant species	Cost estimate	Responsibility	Priority
Strengthen dune resilience	No. 1: Implement Bushcare Action Plan. Dune rehabilitation will extend to the shared path to eliminate the need for unnecessary mowing. This is in line with the Huskisson Beach/Moona Moona Creek Reserves PoM, 6.1, 'as a general principle, cycleway/pedestrian path to form boundary between dune vegetation and mown parkland.'	As per recommended species list in the adopted Bushcare Plan.	\$5,000	Coast & Estuaries Officer, Bushcare Coordinator and Bushcare group	3
Improve landscaping and facilities	No. 2: Implement the Huskisson Beach Resort landscape plan (foreshore area). This will be implemented in stages following the demolition of the old amenities block.	Isolepis nodosa Dianella caerulea (Blue Flax-lily), Hibbertia scandens (Golden Guinea vine), Crinum pedunculatum (Swamp Lily), Carpobrotus glaucescens Scaevola calendulacea (Fan flower), Correa alba (White Correa)	\$30,000	Supervisor Works & Contracts, Holiday Haven	2
	No. 3: Upgrade beach access - Rebuild steps to standards, incorporate viewing deck.	n/a	\$20,000	Coast & Estuaries Officer	3
Provide interpretive signage	Stage 1 In association with Bushcare work - to explain the need for a healthy and resilient dune. Example at Attachment 1.		\$5,000	Coast & Estuaries Officer	1
	Stage 2 The Huskisson Beach/Moona Moona Creek Reserves PoM identifies this precinct as an 'activities hub' & an appropriate location for signage. 6.6: 'liaise with Marine Park Authority and National Parks and Wildlife Service on integration of signage' 6.3 'interpretive themes to include Aboriginal cultural heritage, marine park ecology, protection of threatened wading birds and coastal vegetation management – include Jervis Bay Marine Park zone map with permitted activities, reserve regulations and shared path map.'		\$10,000	Coast & Estuaries Officer	3

3. South Precinct: Moona Moona Creek Reserve



South Precinct implementation table					
Objectives	Action & map reference	Plant species	Cost Estimate	Responsibility	Priority
Strengthen dune resilience	No. 1: Close two beach accesses, remove fencing and handrails.	n/a	\$5,000	Coast & Estuaries Officer	2
	No. 2: Remove dune fence, increase width of dune vegetation (planting & natural regeneration) by providing link track (gravel or mulch) to create a new mowing limit.	Lomandra longifolia, Correa alba, Hibbertia scandens	\$10,000	Coast & Estuaries Officer	1
Manage beach access	No. 3: Selective fence removal. The bank here is currently stable. If needed, sand nourishment can be utilised, to repair or maintain beach access in conjunction with pocket plantings.	Isolepis nodosa, Carpobrotus glaucescens		Coast & Estuaries Officer	3
Rehabilitate Creek bank	No. 4: Upgrade of selected access points, redundant fencing and posts will be removed and dead vegetation from previous spraying to be 'tidied' and gaps replanted. Planted area can be widened to strengthen bank, limit informal access and reduce mowing. Mown area needs to be wide enough to allow for stalls during the Duck Derby.	Isolepis nodosa, Carpobrotus glaucescens, Dianella caerulea	\$15,000	Coast & Estuaries Officer, care groups	1
Enhance park facilities	Investigate the provision of park furniture to prevent vehicle short cuts and parking on open space. Investigate traffic flow including the option of one way traffic.	n/a	\$15,000, staged over 2-3 years	Social Infrastructure Officer	3
	Investigate the installation of benches & bollards to define turning circle (adjacent to the northern picnic shelter) and in parking areas.	n/a	\$15,000, staged over 2-3 years	Social Infrastructure Officer	2
Ensure shade tree succession & expand bushland areas	No. 5: Mulch around groups of trees and limit mowing in area between road and toilet block, adjacent to the northern picnic shelter and east of the northern car park	Eucalyptus pilularis (Blackbutt), Eucalyptus botryoides (Bangalay)	\$5000	Manager Parks Operations / maintenance supervisor	2
	Potential for planting established trees for National Tree Day. Site suggestions to be forwarded to Council by May each year.	Blackbutt & Bangalay	\$1,000 per year (3 or 4 established trees).	Tree Management Officer	2
	Replant mown area between fenced, planted areas with low understorey species. Remove dead banksias from hind dune 'path'.	Lomandra longifolia, Correa alba, Hibbertia scandens, Banksia integrifolia	\$5,000	Social Infrastructure Officer, Bushcare Coordinator & groups	1

Coastal erosion

In recent years there has been growing discussion around climate change, coastal hazards and risk management. The existing dune revegetation works along Huskisson Beach are a component of the 1980's Beach Improvement Program that remediated beaches following the severe storms of the 1970's.

A storm of similar magnitude is regarded as an immediate risk i.e. it can happen at any time.

In order to prepare appropriately for coastal risk, Council has been undertaking studies to identify and quantify coastal hazards since 2004.

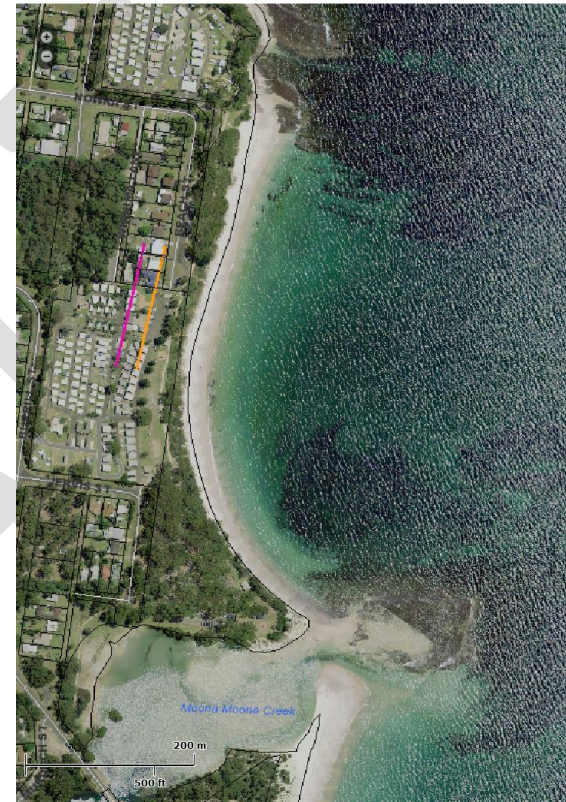
Since 2012, Council has also been acting on recommendations in the draft CZMP by undertaking

- Hazard studies
- Beach erosion monitoring
- Detailed designs for long term protection.

In 2013 Council engaged Royal Haskoning to prepare coastal erosion remediation plans for Shoalhaven's high risk beaches; Mollymook, Collingwood, Currarong, Callala Bay and Beach.

In 2014 Council extended the contract with Royal Haskoning to prepare a city wide coastal erosion remediation strategy together with emergency response plans for all Council managed beaches. This strategy will include Huskisson Beach and further community engagement will be undertaken with coastal communities during 2015 to explain and discuss this strategy.

Coastal hazard lines are shown below for 2050 and 2100.



Documents relating to the management of Shoalhaven's coastline and estuaries, including the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan, are available on Council's website (www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au), together with links to related coastal management issues. Choose the Environment tab on the home page and then select Coastline and Waterways

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



The Huskisson Beach Moona Moona Creek Reserves Plan of Management 2004 refers to known Aboriginal sites in the area and flags the potential existence of others.

'Within the study area recorded sites are a midden located at Huskisson Beach (shown at A) and a site associated with the Moona Moona Creek bridge. Although unrecorded sites may be present, the likelihood of discovery of intact sites has diminished with the amount of disturbance/development of the area', p18.

In October 2014, as installation of a bar-b-q and shelter was about to begin (shown at B), more midden material was discovered. Due diligence was then applied and test holes dug, revealing a widespread, thin shell layer 10-20 cm below the surface. Subsequent expert archaeological advice states,

'Given the location, in hind dunes behind a long sandy beach between two headlands, it is likely that the shell represents Aboriginal shell midden, being the remnants of a large site or a number of smaller sites, arising from Aboriginal people collecting shellfish from the ocean and creek mouths sometime between 5,000 and around 500 years ago.'

Due diligence, as outlined below, will apply to all the minor infrastructure items listed in this document.

1. Find an area that has no recorded sites on AHIMS (plot recorded sites onto a map to show their location and obtain a copy of the site cards)
2. Ensure there is no shell visible on the surface
3. Check for shell in any holes that you may have dug for geotechnical purposes
4. Make sure excavation is less than 10 cms maximum with no deeper excavation for electricity cables
5. You will still need to stop work if anything is found and wait for a permit to be issued.

ATTACHMENT 1 Interpretive sign

Sample of what can be adapted for the Central Precinct at Huskisson Beach

save our sand dunes

why are dunes important?

Coastal dunes are a natural and dynamic part of the environment that constantly changes in response to the weather conditions. They protect the beach, and the land behind the beach, from storms and waves.

Sand dunes are home to many unique communities of plants and animals. The plants on the foredune have adapted to grow under conditions of disturbance and burial.

The dunes move, and their shape and size change, over time. During calm weather, the plants capture wind-blown sand and gradually foredunes are built up.

hind dune foredune

calm weather profile

← sand transported onshore to form foredune

offshore bar

protecting the dunes

You can help protect these valuable areas.

- Use the fenced paths to get to the beach. Walking on the dunes can damage the fragile plants and disturb birds and animals.
- Dispose of all rubbish properly. Don't bury your rubbish, it will soon be uncovered again.
- Make sure you only drive and park in designated areas.
- Never dump garden waste in natural areas. Weeds can spread and take over the dunes.

During storms, sand is eroded from the beach and the foredune and deposited offshore to form sand bars.

hind dune eroded foredune

stormy weather profile

→ sand transported offshore to form bar

offshore bar

Huskisson City Council **CMA** Coastal Management Authority **Australian Government**