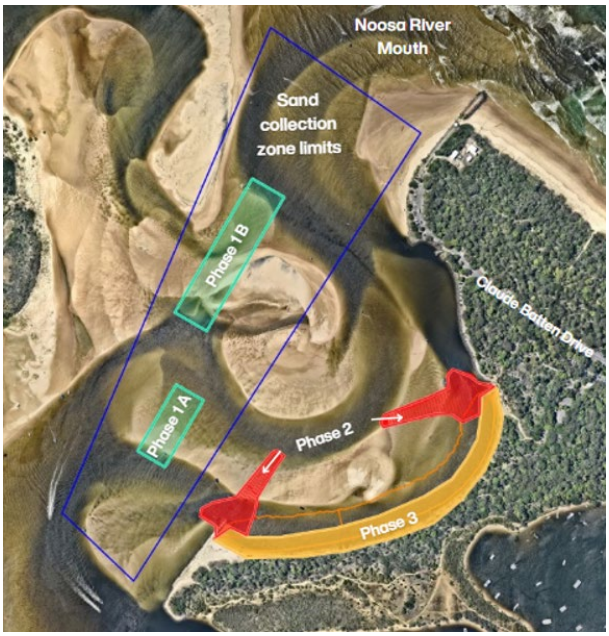
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Doggy Beach Sand Nourishment

Summary

Sand nourishment work to protect Doggy Beach from further erosion is being planned by Council.

The erosion of Doggy Beach is primarily driven by boat wash, wave action and tides, which result in the channel migration process. Increasing the volume of sand at Doggy Beach will help reduce erosion caused by the current flow and boat wash.



Phase 1 (A&B) – sand dredging to reopen the Noosa River channel, conducted in two areas – A and B.
Phase 2 – create sand plugs to redirect river flow from eroded shore.
Phase 3 – remove fallen trees and renourish the beach.

Image: Scope of works

Why is shoreline nourishment work required at Doggy Beach?

The Doggy Beach section of the Noosa Spit is eroding, primarily driven by the channel migration process.

Works were completed in 2012 to stabilise the western extent of the beach and renourish the foreshore to increase the condition and usability of the area.

Accelerated erosion experienced from severe weather events (including flood and cyclones) has further narrowed the Doggy Beach section of the Noosa Spit, impacting users of the area. In response, Council completed investigations of possible soft treatment solutions to mitigate the issue in place of traditional hard treatment options like rock and concrete bank armouring.

The Noosa Spit Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) was the result of the investigation, and the Doggy Beach shoreline sand nourishment project was one of the recommended outcomes.

How will sand nourishment help reduce the erosion of Doggy Beach?

The project will increase the volume of sand at Doggy Beach, helping to mitigate ongoing erosion. Sand will also be placed at either end of the shoreline to create two ‘sand plugs’, to provide shoreline support and to help direct the river flow back in the centre of the river and encourage natural renourishment of the area.

Increasing the volume of sand at Doggy Beach will reduce erosion caused by the current flow and boat wash. This will provide greater protection against any further degrading of the shoreline.

What are ‘sand plugs’ and how do they help with shoreline nourishment and ongoing erosion?

The ‘sand plugs’ are essentially piles of sand built from the shore into the river or existing sand bank. Like their name, the ‘sand plugs’ “plug” the problematic channel adjacent to the foreshore, encouraging the water to flow to the main channel. They also help to renourish the surrounding beach as they erode.

Is there going to be any new sandbags or rock installed as part of the works?

The installation of extra sandbags or rock is not planned as part of these works. The nourishment works and sand plugs will be made with sand only to help keep the soft feel of the beach.

Will watercraft be able to travel or stop in front of Doggy Beach whilst the dredge is in operation?

Doggy Beach and the shoreline of the beach will be closed to the public during the works, including swimmers and all recreational marine craft (powered and non-powered).

Freshly dredged sand can be dangerous before it has settled, therefore as dredging operations take place and fallen trees are removed, this closure is necessary for the safety of all individuals.

Image: Closed area

Where will the dredge be working in the channel, and can I still access the river mouth?

The dredging contractor will ensure the maintenance of a navigable path for vessels to access the river mouth throughout the duration of the works. This task will be undertaken collaboratively by the dredging contractor and Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ).

Given that the primary channel currently runs adjacent to Doggy Beach, marine vessels will temporarily utilise the shoreline until an alternative route is established.

Once an alternative route is established within the river's midstream, sand plugs will be installed to effectively redirect the flow, thereby safeguarding Doggy Beach from erosion.

The dredging operations are constrained to a specific area and depth within the river, as stipulated by the environmental permit. The dredge will adjust its position within the approved collection area to accommodate the fluctuating river and sandbank conditions, as well as the specific beach section requiring nourishment.

Watercraft operators are urged to maintain a safe speed, keep a considerable distance from the dredging vessel, and be attentive to potential turbulence caused by passing.

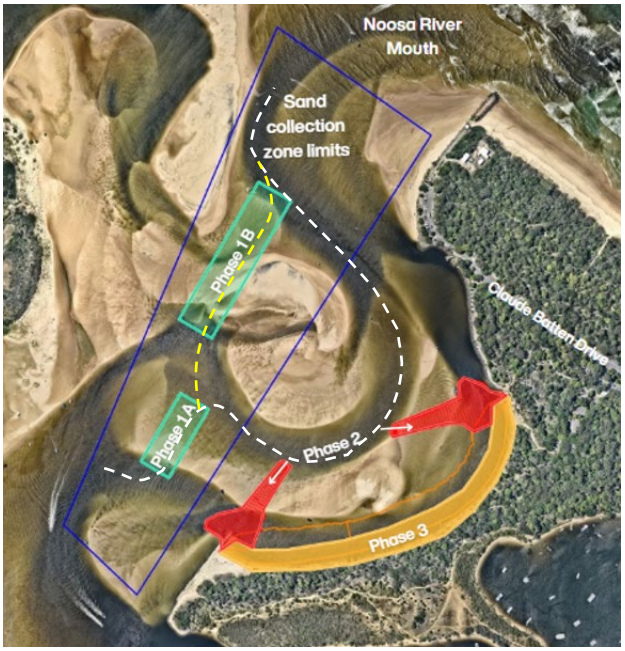


Image: Work areas and planned alternative routes

How long will the dredge be in the channel and what hours will it operate?

Dredging in the channel is subject to strict State Government Environmental Permit conditions which control what time of year the work can be done. The selected timeframe will minimise the impact on the coastal and marine environment, including fish spawning and the flowering and fruiting of marine plants.

Dredging works will commence in April and finish late September to comply with the strict conditions of the environmental permit.

The dredge will operate from 6.30am to 6.30pm, five days per week. However, dredging may be completed outside of these times to meet the dredging timeframe.

Will the dredge operation be dependent on high and low tides?

No. Typical high and low tides will not impact dredging. However, operators will monitor river conditions or unusual events such as king tides that may make conditions unsafe to dredge.

Can I walk my dog on Doggy Beach while the sand nourishment is taking place?

No. Doggy Beach and part of the car park beside Doggy Beach will be closed for the duration of the work. The beach has been closed for the safety of everyone while the fallen trees are removed, and dredging is underway. Freshly dredged sand can be dangerous while it settles.

The bay side of the Noosa Spit and the Noosa Woods will remain open for recreational use.

Other off-leash and dog exercise areas can be found on Councils website and interactive map:
www.noosa.qld.gov.au/community/animals-pets/dogs

Image: Noosa Spit off-leash dog area

Will this solve the problem and rehabilitate the Noosa Spit shoreline?

The intent of this work is to reduce the current flows adjacent to the Doggy Beach shoreline and renourish the beach face. However, it is important to note that sand renourishment of the shoreline is not a permanent solution due to the changing currents, natural sand migration and storm surges.

Will the marine plants and fish be impacted by the dredging?

A no-go buffer zone will be in place around the fish habitat on Noosa River's northern foreshore. This is one of many environmental precautions which have been addressed within the State controlled environmental permit process.

The conditions of the State Government's Environmental Permit have taken into consideration the projects impact on the coastal and marine environment, including fish spawning, migrating birds and the flowering and fruiting of marine plants. The permit stipulates that the works must be carried out between April and September to reduce the impact on the marine environment.

Council will be taking precautions during the works, including surveys of the environment before and after to minimise and address any potential impacts.

Will the fallen trees on the beach be removed?

The trees that have fallen along the eroded dog beach will be tidied up as part of the nourishment works. Where possible the fallen trees and those at risk of falling will be removed.

Some fallen trees will not be removed because of their size or from being buried under the sand. Any trees left on the beach will be trimmed back or moved to a safe location, where possible.

How much sand will be moved?

Approximately 80,000m^3 or 160,000t of sand will be used to renourish the Doggy Beach.

The sand plugs will be completed first to slow the eroding currents and then renourishment of the beach can commence. However, the volume of dredging may be limited by the conditions of the State Government's Environmental Permit and the conditions of the river.

Will the nourishment and sand plugs work?

Sand plugs were modelled to be the best performing option of the Noosa Spit Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) report, completed by a specialist coastal engineer consultant. The intent of sand plug design is to redirect flows back into the main channel, help reduce erosion and to encourage natural renourishment of Doggy Beach.

Because of the natural and unpredictable changing nature of the river and river mouth there is no guarantee the nourishment works will perform as expected, however not completing the nourishment could result in further loss of Noosa Spit and risk of a breakthrough.

Will the works potentially impact the surrounding river environment?

As part of the environmental permit approval process with the State, Council engaged a specialist coastal engineering consultant to complete several investigations and developed a management plan for the dredging works, to make sure potential impacts will be minimised.

The dredging contractor will be following this management plan and completing daily monitoring and compliance checks of the works to ensure the strict conditions of the State approved environmental permit are upheld.

Council will also be completing additional testing and monitoring during the dredging works and years following to ensure compliance and minimise impacts of the surrounding environment. This will include activities such as drone monitoring of plume conditions (clouds of mixed sand and water in the river), additional water quality testing, marine plant monitoring and sand and river channel migration monitoring.

Council has taken extra precautions and have only chosen specialist consultants and contractors to complete the nourishment works to minimise any impacts to the environment.

Please note: this project is subject to favourable weather conditions.

Stay Updated

noosa.qld.gov.au/wip
facebook.com/noosacouncil

Contact Us

07 5329 6500 mail@noosa.qld.gov.au
(Subject line: Doggy Beach Sand Nourishment Works)