

Zone 03 Shelly Beach



Overview of beach characteristics

Shelly Beach is a closed system with limited availability to replenish the beach.

Exposed rocks make direct access to the beach problematic below cliff face towards Moffat Headland Creek/drain creates unsustainable nesting conditions

Offshore/ submerged rocks help to dissipate wave action

Area most suitable as turtle nesting habitat

Creek/ drain creates unstable nesting conditions

Offshore/ submerged rocks help to dissipate wave action

Exposed rock platform makes direct access to beach problematic

← Nesting occurs at these locations during high tide periods, but is uncommon due to frequency of nesting on Sunshine Coast.

← Noting that in a large scale event, severe erosion does still occur regardless of the rocky platform (e.g. Storm surge at high tide scenario). Erosion potential depends on a variety of factors (e.g. significant wave height, beach profile, offshore bathymetry, swell period and tide level) and the presence of an offshore rock shelf may not reduce the severity of the erosion, this is dependent on the combination of factors during the storm event.

← Freshwater inundation, erosion in extreme weather and a variety of other issues at emergence are complicated by creeks and drains in combination with artificial light. Turtle nests at these locations are relocated.

Characteristics of a healthy dune

Healthy sand dunes help protect the coast from inundation by the sea. They also support a diversity of flora and fauna.

Vegetation in the hind dune is protected from wind and salt spray by hardier plants on the foredune.

Closer to the beach plants species are those that typically survive in dry conditions, exposure to salt spray and being buried by the sand.

Large swells and a build up of sand can erode the foredune.

Shelly Beach

Shelly Beach is a heavily modified dune environment due to historic Shell Grit mining activities and the siting and operation of the former Toolara Caravan Park.

Both the dune profile and vegetation communities have been heavily affected and there is a total absence of hind dune in some areas. This is particularly prevalent in north Shelly Beach section.

The primary objective of early rehabilitation activities at Shelly Beach to stabilise the dune from coastal erosion processes, an action consistent with coastal management activities in the mid to late 1990's.

Species used were available native species tolerant of coastal conditions. These have been supplemented over time through a range of dune care and management activities.

