

Draft Victor Harbor Coastal Adaptation Master Plan (Hindmarsh to Inman River)

Have your say

Council is seeking feedback on a draft Master Plan to manage the projected impacts of coastal erosion, storm events and sea level rise between the Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers.

Background

Like most coastal areas around Australia, our much-loved foreshore is at risk of coastal erosion and flooding from projected sea level rise and increasing storm frequency associated with climate change.

Preparation of the Master Plan is an action from Council's Coastal Adaptation Study and Strategy (CASS) and is being funded through a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Grant from the Local Government Association of South Australia.

Early community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken on preliminary Master Plan options in February and March 2026 to inform development of the Draft Master Plan.

The Draft Master Plan

- Has been prepared by landscape architects, coastal engineers and scientists and is informed by analysis from the CASS and Flinders University PhD research.
- Identifies a series of guiding principles and proposed concept layout for the coastline that manages coastal risks (erosion and flooding) whilst providing places for people, nature and the ongoing natural processes that shape our dynamic coastline.
- Proposed approaches to be used such as hard and soft protection infrastructure such as sea walls incorporating new movement paths, greening & amenity, dune restoration & revegetation, sand nourishment, and in some cases considering the relocation or consolidation of built assets (e.g. buildings, pathways).

Is a long-term document:

- It plans for coastal erosion and flooding projected by 2100 (based on +1.0 m rise in sea level from present).
- Implementation of the Master Plan will take place over 75 years in line with Council asset renewals, capital budgets and grant funding. It includes short, medium and long term priorities.
- Further detailed design work and community consultation will be required.

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How to get involved

- Scan the QR Code to view the Draft Master Plan and complete the survey or visit www.yoursay.victor.sa.gov.au/camp
(Hard copies of the Draft Master Plan, Fact Sheet and survey are available from the Civic Centre, 1 Bay Road, Victor Harbor.)
- Register to attend an online information session at 6:00 pm Wednesday, 20 May 2026.
- Written submissions may also be made via:
Email: localgov@victor.sa.gov.au
Post: PO Box 11, Victor Harbor SA 5211
In person: delivered to the Civic Centre, 1 Bay Road, Victor Harbor

All submissions must be received **by 5:00 pm Friday, 29 May 2026**.

For more information, visit www.yoursay.victor.sa.gov.au or call (08) 8551 0500.

Next steps

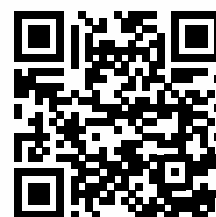
Council will consider the feedback received and finalise the Draft Master Plan.

Draft Master Plan Key Priorities and Timeframes

The following pages summarise for the Draft Master Plan:

- What the CASS advised
- A summary of community and stakeholder feedback on preliminary options
- Short term and medium term priorities for action.

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Overall Site - Proposed Protection

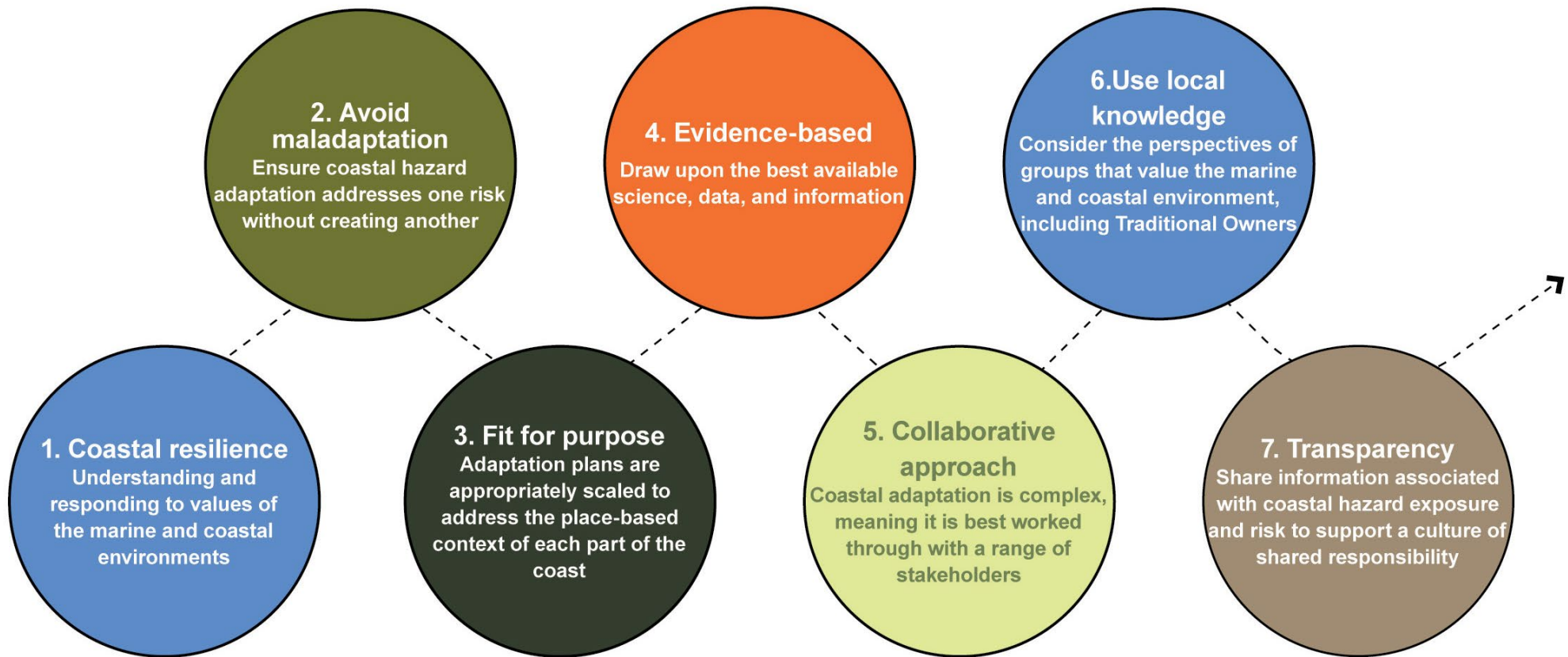
Legend

	Stormwater Outlet
	Tree
	New Hybrid Seawall
	New Concrete Seawall
	Road
	Bike Direct Network
	Pedestrian Walkway
	1m Contour
	Aboriginal Cultural Site - Kent Reserve
	Beach
	Car Park
	Open Space
	Understorey Planting
	Sea
	Building
	State Heritage Place
	Local Heritage Place
	Significant Environment Benefit Area
	Site Boundary



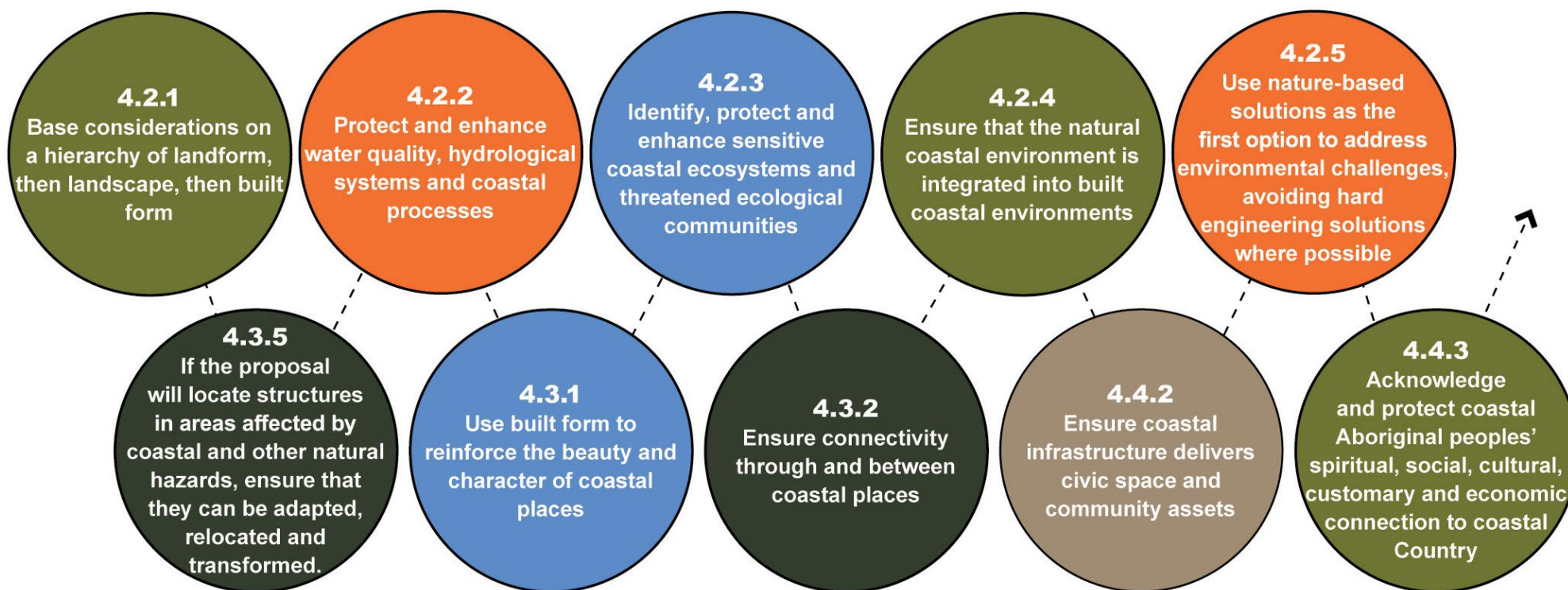
Guiding Principles - CHAP

These guiding principles are referencing the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan principles
The CHAP guiding principles establish the strategic foundation for coastal adaptation, focusing on risk management, resilience, and long-term environmental, social, and economic outcomes.



Guiding Principles - NSW Coastal Design Guidelines

The NSW Coastal Design Guidelines principles provide a complementary urban design lens, translating these strategic directions into place-based design responses that shape how coastal environments are experienced, used, and integrated into the public realm.



Timeframes, Priorities & Implementation

	Short Term - Present - 2036	Medium Term - 2036 - 2050	Long Term - 2050 - 2100
Site 1	Do nothing in short term & allow natural processes to continue. Maintain functional beach in short-term & accept gradual loss of trees. Undertake sand nourishment, revegetation & fencing to protect dunes.	- Realign tree planting to Bridge Terrace. - New boulevard for walking / cycling with upgraded public amenity including reconfiguration of car park and green spaces. - New hybrid sea wall & sand nourishment to dunes. - New boardwalk, trails & viewing decks. - Protect and enhance the integrity of the estuary system through ecosystem-led adaptation such as wetlands / revegetation (river mouth re-naturalised). - Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with WSUD / car park / sand nourishment).	Optional - plan & implement strategy based on CHAP mitigating impacts of coastal erosion and flooding on Bridge Terrace.
Site 2	- Explore relocation possibilities for the existing yacht club (ageing infrastructure - at end of useful life) & implement new relocated yacht club. NOTE: This requires sea wall / protection from rising sea levels. - Explore relocation possibilities for the existing croquet club (ageing infrastructure) & re-vegetation and sand nourishment in its place. SEB location retained. - Protect the heritage cafe (Qahwa) in current location from rising sea levels. New portion of hybrid seawall to protect Cafe (and removal of existing rock revetment).	- Explore relocation of Council assets, including skate park, tennis courts, beach volleyball - replace with soft recreation (e.g. playspace) & new hybrid sea wall with natural dune + revegetation. - Coastal sand nourishment + revegetation.	Optional - plan & implement strategy based on CHAP mitigating impacts of coastal erosion and flooding on Bridge Terrace.
Site 3	Design & construct existing path into new raised seawall (1.5m higher). Existing concrete block wall removed. New seawall to be constructed from concrete with opportunities for terraces to beach.	Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with WSUD / car park / sand nourishment). Explore relocation of boat ramp (impacted by sea levels in medium term).	NIL - Flinders Parade protected.
Site 4	- Explore relocation of car park elsewhere & explore staged removal and relocation. - Explore relocation of car park with dunes including revegetation & sand nourishment, remove existing terraced concrete blocks.	- Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with WSUD / car park / sand nourishment). - New boulevard for walking / cycling with upgraded public amenity including reconfiguration of car park and green spaces. New hybrid sea wall.	Optional - plan & implement strategy based on CHAP mitigating impacts of coastal erosion and flooding on Bridge Terrace.
Site 5	- Plan for improvements to estuary including re-establishing wetlands & re-vegetation (in lieu of levee). - New boardwalk, with trail & viewing deck (to wetland & Kent Reserve).	- Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with sand nourishment). Consolidate dune into one consistent dune. - New boulevard for walking / cycling with upgraded public amenity including reconfiguration of car park and green spaces. New hybrid sea wall.	Optional - plan & implement strategy based on CHAP mitigating impacts of coastal erosion and flooding on Bridge Terrace.

Site 01 - Short Term (Present - 2036)

CASS Summary

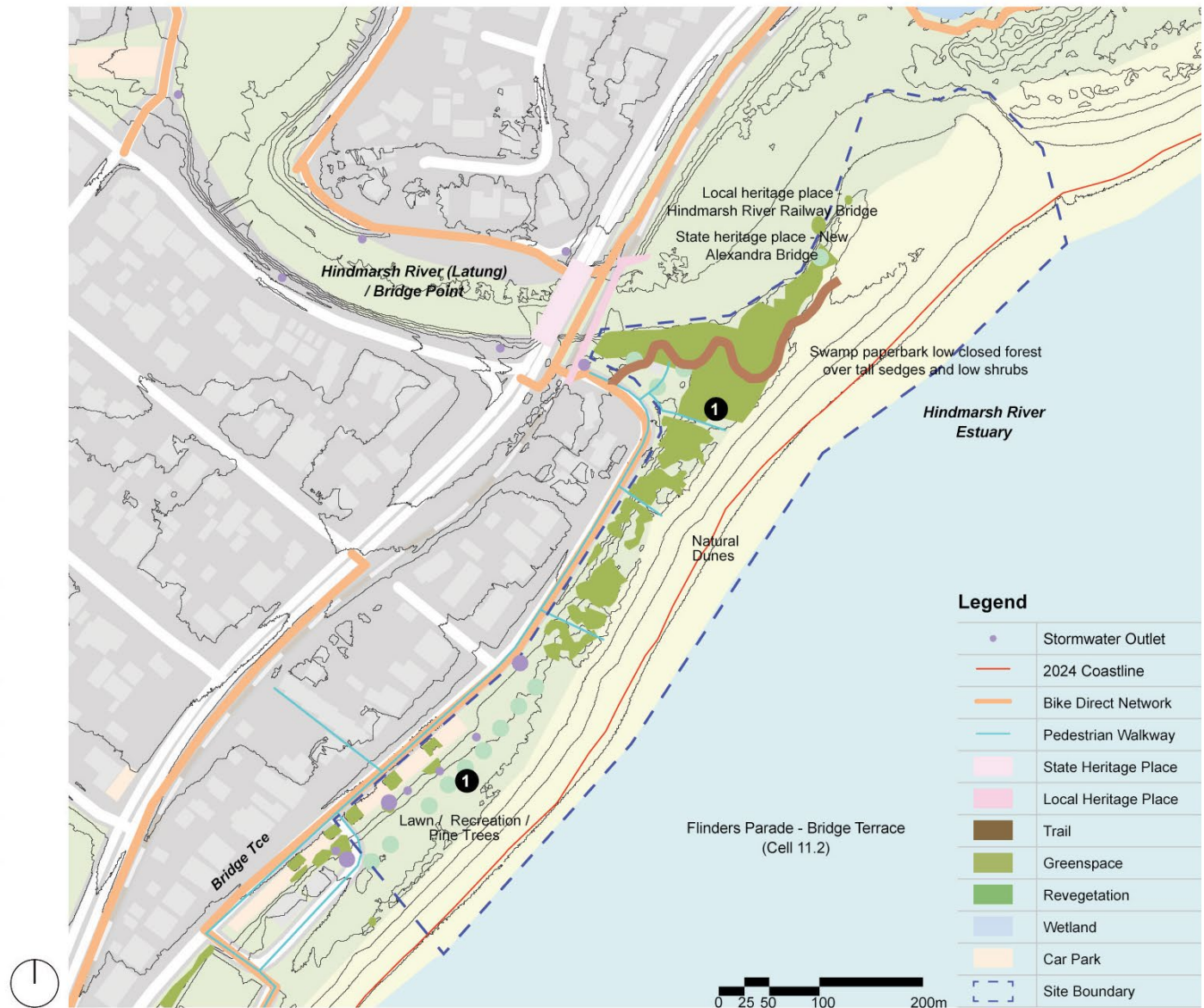
Historically stable shoreline with no pressing current issues. Erosion is the primary long-term risk (~60m retreat by 2100), placing the pine trees at risk without protection or eventual removal.

Community & Stakeholder Summary

1. Protect and work with natural estuary processes
2. Balance protection of key landscape assets with coastal change
3. Maintain access and amenity while planning for long-term change

Key Moves

1	Short-term - Do nothing in short term & allow natural processes to continue. Maintain functional beach in short-term & accept gradual loss of trees. Undertake sand nourishment, revegetation & fencing to protect dunes.
	Medium-term - Realign tree planting to Bridge Terrace.
	Medium-term - New boulevard for walking / cycling with upgraded public amenity including reconfiguration of car park and green spaces.
	Medium-term - New hybrid sea wall & sand nourishment to dunes.
	Medium-term - New boardwalk, trails & viewing decks.
	Medium-term - Protect and enhance the integrity of the estuary system through ecosystem-led adaptation such as wetlands / revegetation (river mouth re-naturalised).
	Medium-term - Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with WSUD / car park / sand nourishment).



Site 01 - Medium Term (2036 - 2050)

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5	Medium-term - New boardwalk, trails & viewing decks.
6	Medium-term - Protect and enhance the integrity of the estuary system through ecosystem-led adaptation such as wetlands / revegetation (river mouth re-naturalised).
7	Medium-term - Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with WSUD / car park / sand nourishment).



Site 02 - Short Term (Present - 2036)

CASS Summary

Generally stable shoreline, though stormwater outlets and revetment interaction are contributing to localised erosion and beach lowering. Erosion and coastal flooding threaten narrow dunes and foreshore infrastructure. Without intervention: reduced beach width and routine flooding of 0.3–0.5m anticipated.

Community & Stakeholder Summary

1. Strong value on recreation, activity and community identity
2. Support for transition toward a more natural and resilient coastline. Support for increased dunes and natural response
3. Divergence between asset protection and transformation. Yacht & croquet club supports continued operation of marine/recreation uses while incorporating retreat and dune restoration. Opportunity for hybrid or staged adaptation pathways

Key Moves

1	Short-term - Explore relocation possibilities for the existing yacht club (ageing infrastructure - at end of useful life) & implement new relocated yacht club. NOTE: This requires sea wall / protection from rising sea levels.
2	Short-term - Explore relocation possibilities for the existing croquet club (ageing infrastructure) & re-vegetation and sand nourishment in its place. SEB location retained.
3	Short-term - Protect the heritage cafe (Qahwa) in current location from rising sea levels. New portion of hybrid seawall to protect Cafe (and removal of existing rock revetment).
	Medium-term - Explore relocation of Council assets, including skate park, tennis courts, beach volleyball - replace with soft recreation (e.g. playspace) & new hybrid sea wall with natural dune + revegetation.
	Medium-term - Coastal sand nourishment + revegetation.



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	Short-term - Protect the heritage cafe (Qahwa) in current location from rising sea levels. New portion of hybrid seawall to protect Cafe (and removal of existing rock revetment).
4	Medium-term - Explore relocation of Council assets, including skate park, tennis courts, beach volleyball - replace with soft recreation (e.g. playspace) & new hybrid sea wall with natural dune + revegetation.
5	Medium-term - Coastal sand nourishment + revegetation.



Site 03 - Short Term (Present - 2036)

CASS Summary

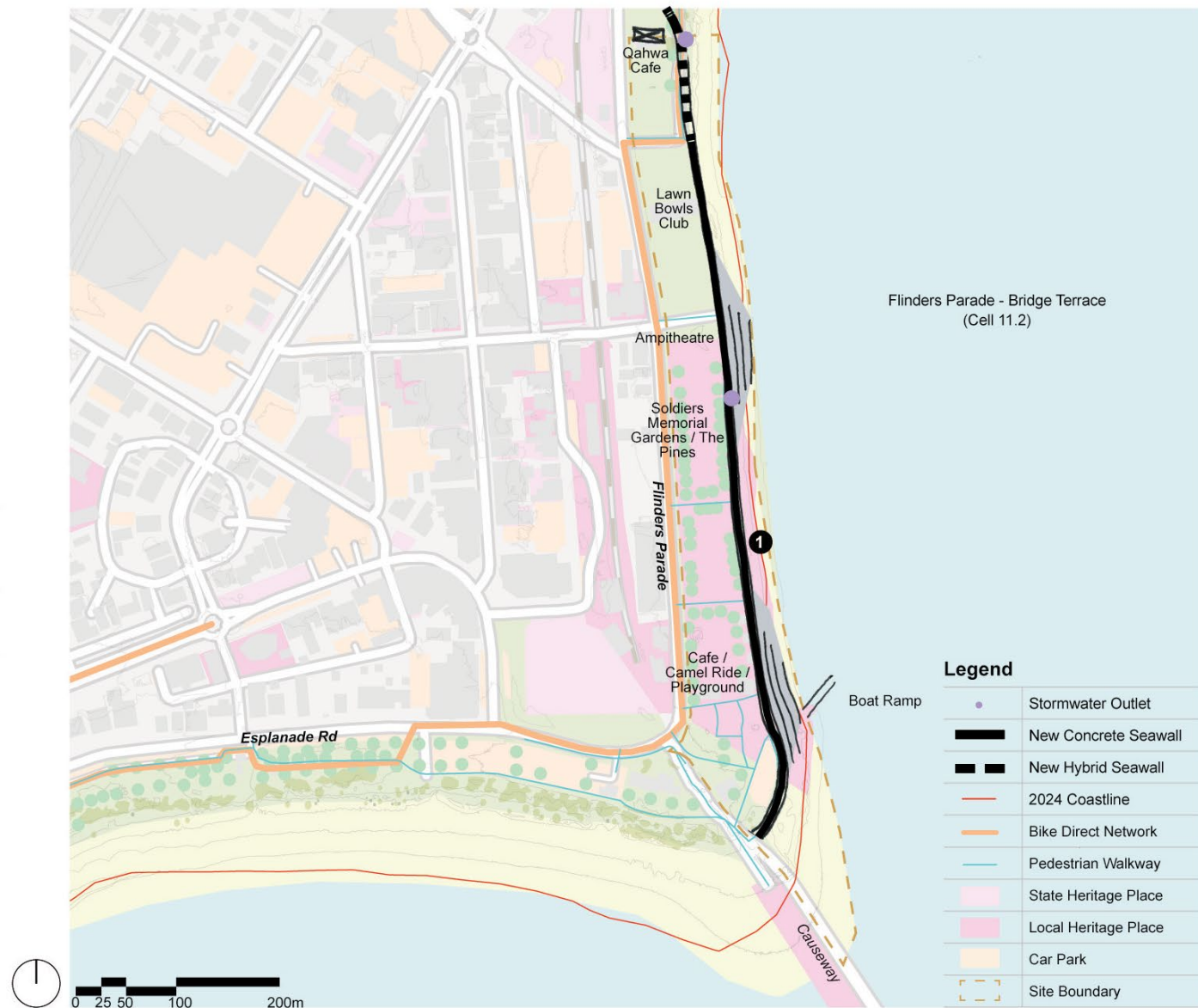
Most historically modified site with long-term "hold-the-line" approach and ongoing seawall issues. Beach lowering, overtopping and structural failures present ongoing maintenance and safety challenges. Coastal flooding is the greatest future risk, with promenade inundation (up to 0.5m) and minimal to no recreational beach width expected by 2100.

Community & Stakeholder Summary

1. Protect civic, heritage and tourism assets
2. Maintain a high-quality public realm and coastal experience
3. Limited support for relocation of assets

Key Moves

1	Short-term - Design & construct existing path into new raised seawall (1.5m higher). Existing concrete block wall removed. New seawall to be constructed from concrete with opportunities for terraces to beach.
	Medium-term - Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with WSUD / car park / sand nourishment). Explore relocation of boat ramp (impacted by sea levels in medium term).



Site 03 - Medium Term (2036 - 2050)

CASS Summary

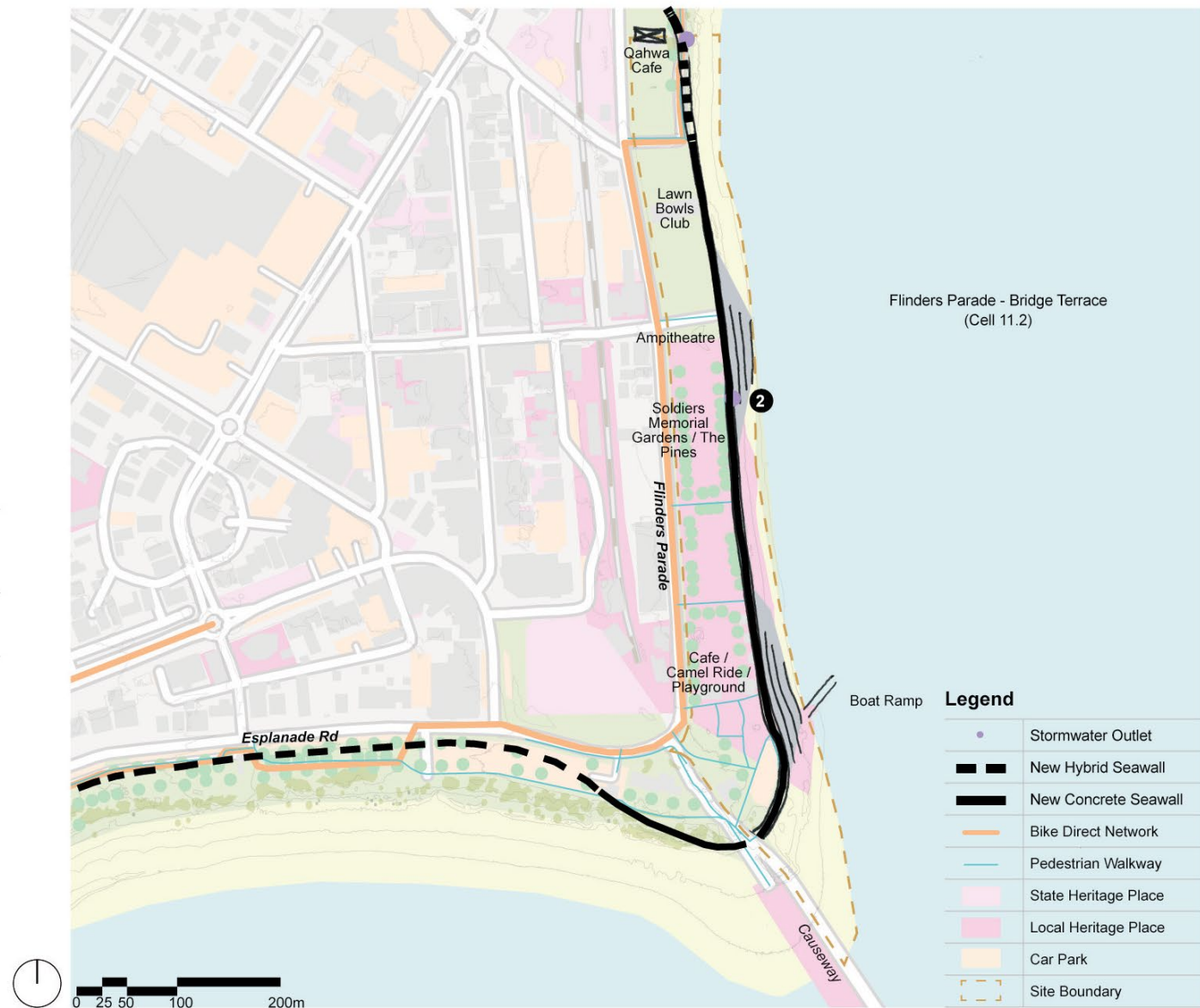
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Site 04 - Short Term (Present - 2036)

CASS Summary

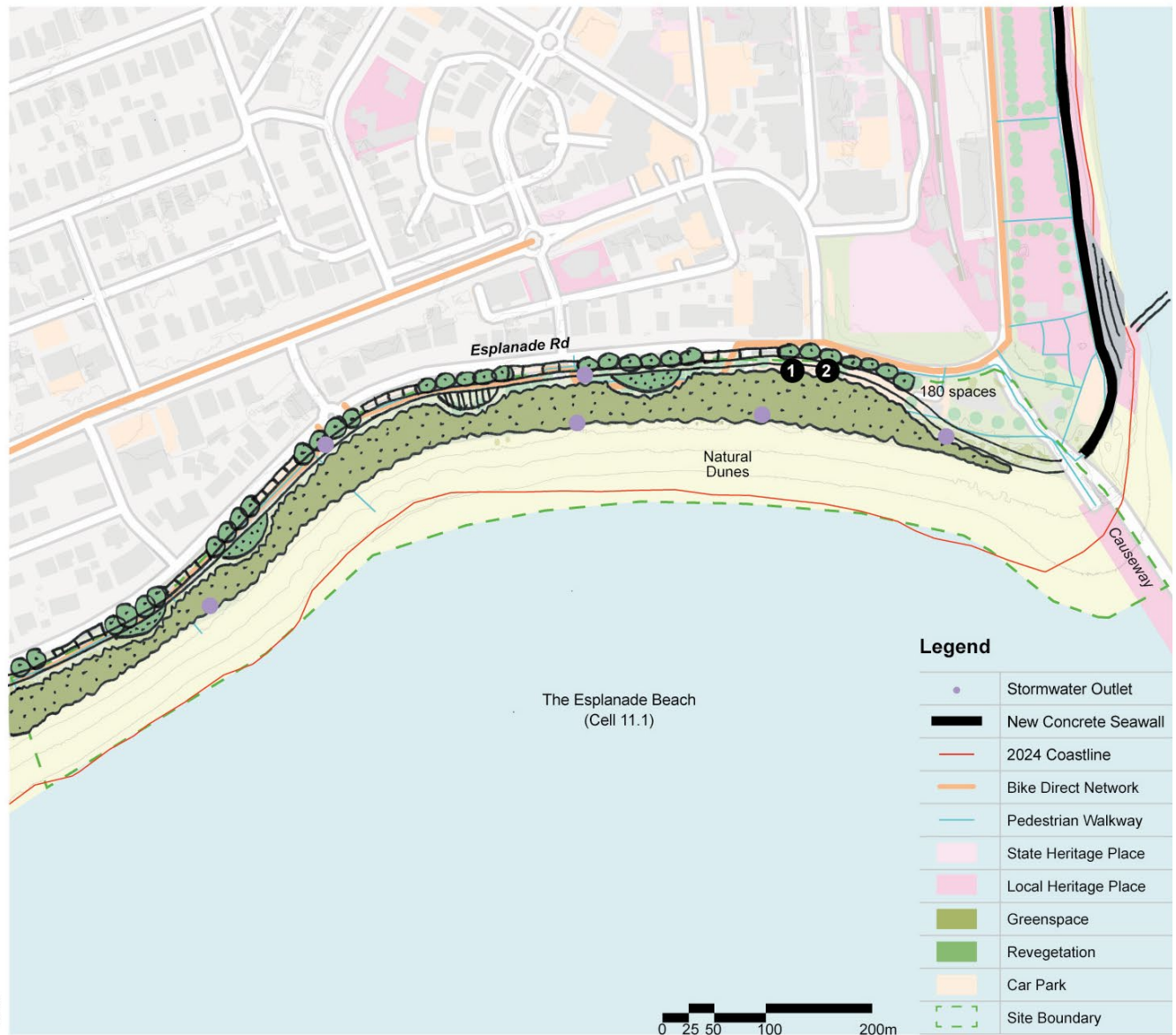
Stormwater outfalls are eroding dunes and creating erosion ingress points. Erosion is the primary risk (~50m dune retreat by 2100). CASS recommends dune nourishment, returning landscaped foreshore to natural veg/dune system, diverting stormwater.

Community & Stakeholder Summary

1. Strong value on natural dune landscape and "living coast" character
2. Priority for dune restoration and coastal resilience
3. Reduce built form and reconfigure infrastructure over time

Key Moves

1	Short-term - Explore relocation of car park elsewhere & explore staged removal and relocation.
2	Short-term - Explore relocation of car park with dunes including revegetation & sand nourishment, remove existing terraced concrete blocks.
	Medium-term - Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with sand nourishment). Consolidate dune into one consistent dune.
	Medium-term - New boulevard for walking / cycling with upgraded public amenity including reconfiguration of car park and green spaces. New hybrid sea wall.



Site 04 - Medium Term (2036 - 2050)

CASS Summary

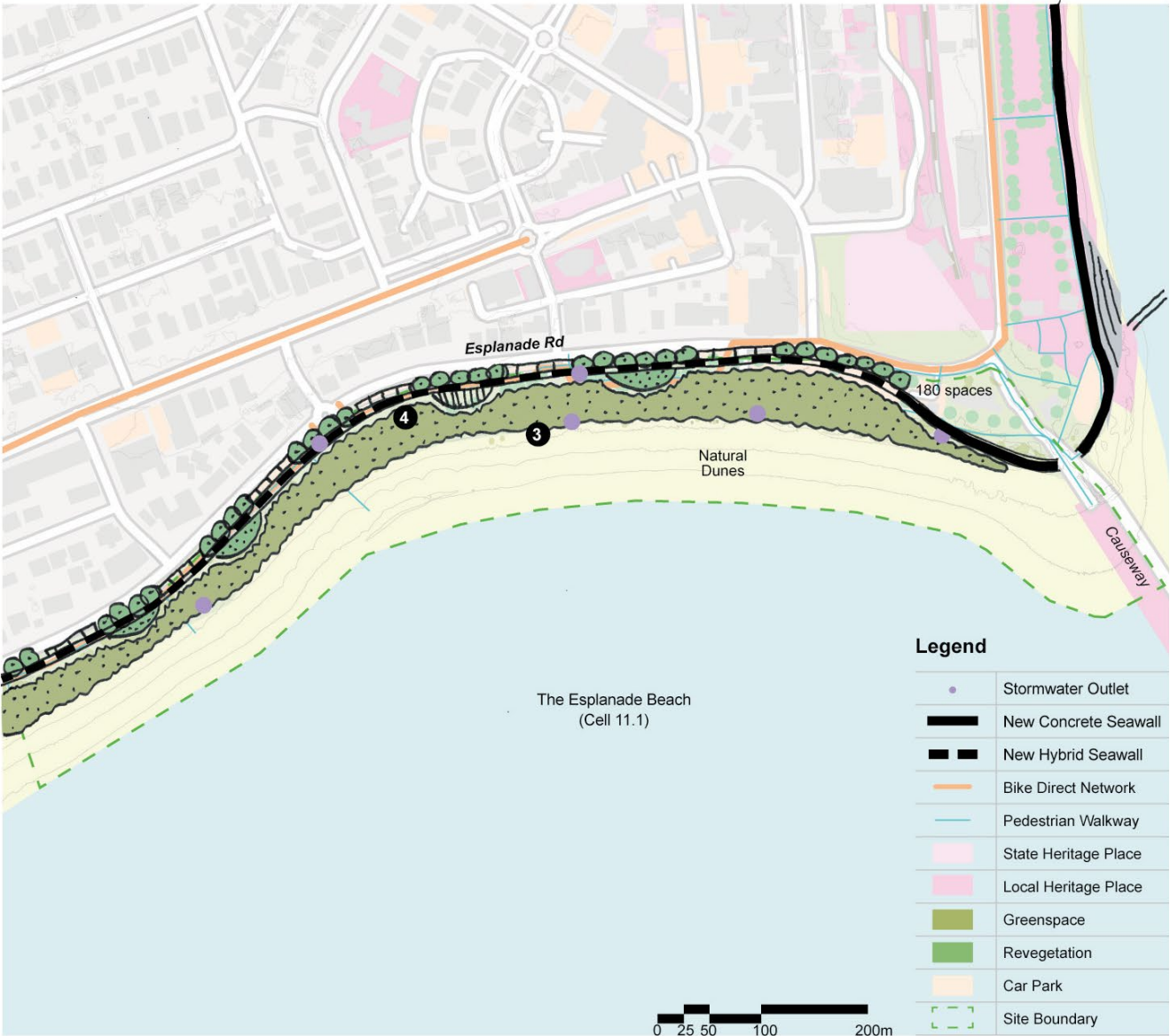
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Site 05 - Short Term (Present - 2036)

CASS Summary

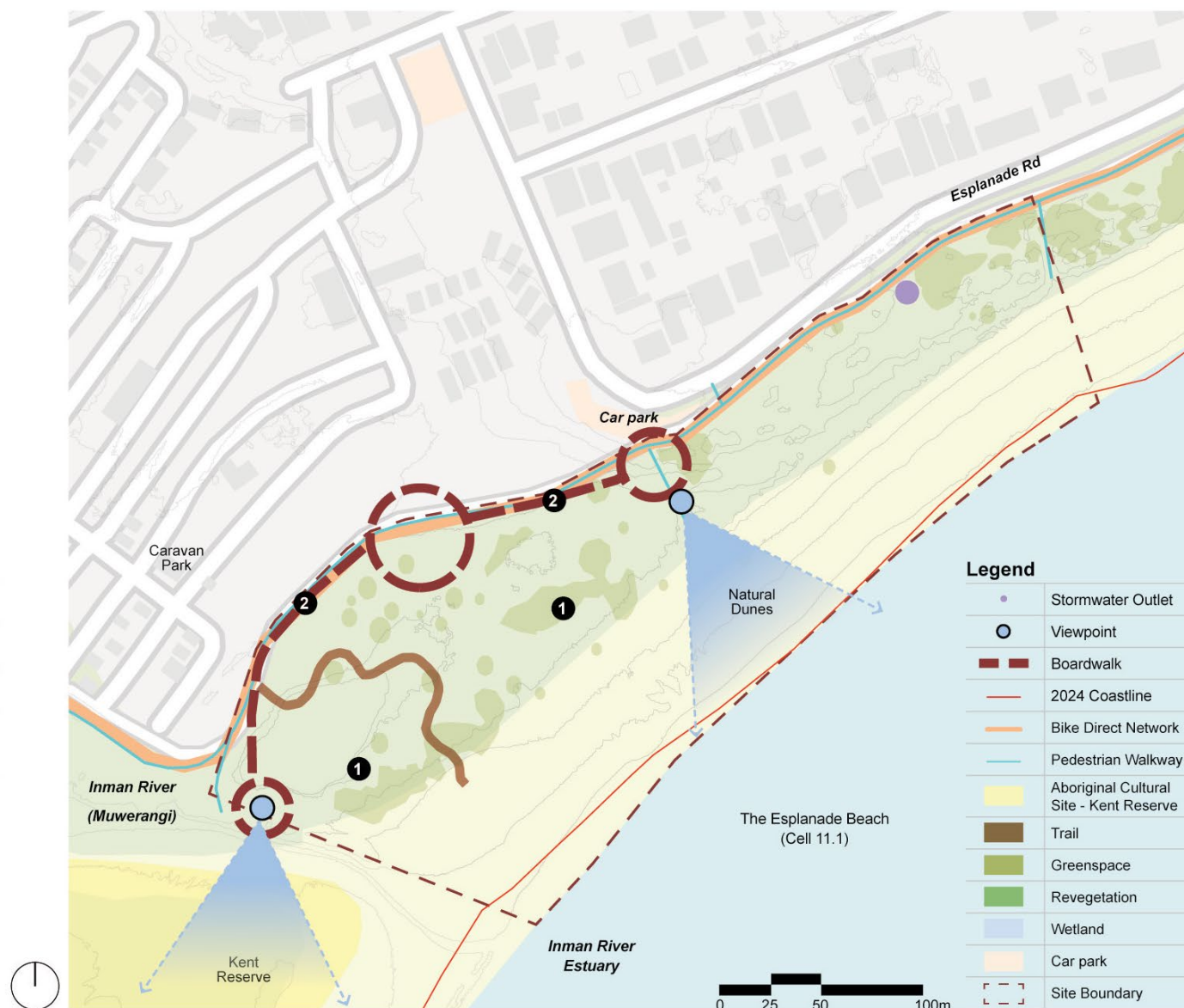
Primary issue is coastal flooding risk to the caravan park during storm surge events. Sea level rise will increase flood frequency; erosion also anticipated (~50m potential retreat by 2100).

Community & Stakeholder Summary

1. Strong support to restore and prioritise estuarine systems of river
2. Consider working with natural processes
3. Accept change (including relocation) to enable long-term resilience

Key Moves

1	Short-term - Plan for improvements to estuary including re-establishing wetlands & re-vegetation (in lieu of levee).
2	Short-term - New boardwalk, with trail & viewing deck (to wetland & Kent Reserve).
	Medium-term - Stormwater outfall upgrades (in conjunction with sand nourishment). Consolidate dune into one consistent dune.
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Site 05 - Medium Term (2036 - 2050)

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