

LOCATION



The waters of the Fraser Coast contain a vast array of marine habitats and coastal landscapes that form a transition zone between tropical and temperate waters. The changing water temperature drives dynamic life cycles and influences how coral, fish, mangrove and seagrass species are distributed. Seagrass meadows, mangroves, rocky shores, reefs, sandy beaches, bays, sheltered channels, rivers, creeks and estuaries host a wealth of wildlife including whales, turtles, dugong, grey nurse sharks, fish, corals and birds.

The Butchulla and Kabi Kabi First Nation people have a connection with the waters of the Fraser Coast, including the Great Sandy Strait. Today these Traditional Owners continue to practise their native title rights and interests and have an ongoing spiritual connection to land and sea Country and the protection of their Cultural landscape along with custodial responsibilities to pass on traditional knowledge to future generations.



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Respecting our
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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SHOREBIRDS

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Shorebirds

ABOUT

The Southeast coastline is the most populated stretch of coastline in Queensland. The region hosts significant numbers of shorebirds including the vulnerable Beach Stone-curlew.

Many of the shorebirds you will see on the Fraser Coast have travelled thousands of kilometres since breeding in the Arctic. Between August and May, an estimated 45,000 birds visit the region to rest, feed and replenish fat reserves for their return journey.

1 EASTERN OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

This large and graceful fishing hawk is distinguished by its white head and body, and brown wings. They range from 50-65cm in size and have a wingspan up to 1.7m. Eastern osprey pairs lay 2-3 eggs each year, in a large nest (made of sticks, seaweed and even rope) high up in a tree or on a pylon. They patrol over water, diving feet-first from as high as 50 metres.

STATUS: Secure

3 EASTERN CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

At up to 63cm, the Eastern Curlew is the largest of the world's shorebirds and is listed as vulnerable in Qld (and critically endangered federally). It has a long down-curved bill, which is used to probe the mud and dig up crabs. The Eastern Curlew lays 2-4 eggs.

STATUS: Vulnerable

2 BEACH STONE-CURLEW (*Esacus neglectus*)

Up to 56cm in size, this large wader is listed as vulnerable in Qld. It has a strong, black-tipped yellow bill, a prominent black-and-white eye-stripe and is most active at dusk, dawn and night. The beach stone-curlew lays a single egg on the sand, usually in a vulnerable position, just above the high tide mark.

STATUS: Vulnerable

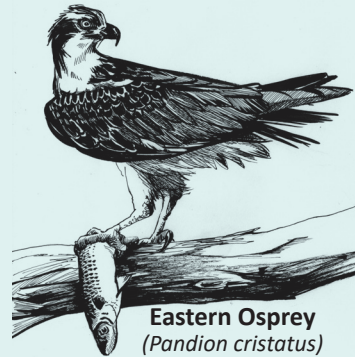
4 WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

The Whimbrel is a medium-sized curlew, up to 42cm in size. It has a long down-curved bill with a pink lower base. The Whimbrel has a white lower body with coarsely streaked brown upperparts. They lay 2-4 eggs.

STATUS: Secure

HABITATS

The waters of the Fraser Coast, including the Great Sandy Strait, protects tidal wetlands, important habitats for shorebirds. During summer, numbers of shorebirds in the region can swell to 30,000 when migratory species join resident birds to share the area between land and sea. These shorebirds need space, food and protection at critical staging sites along their foreshore habitat.



Eastern Osprey
(*Pandion cristatus*)

Did You Know?

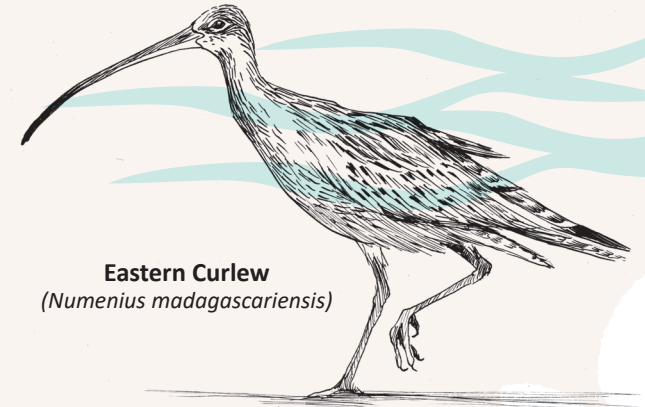
Many birds travel 25,000 km each year, with some larger species flying 11,000 km non-stop. Even those weighing as little as 30g (two 50 cent pieces) fly these incredible distances. By the time these birds reach their breeding grounds in the Arctic, they may have lost up to 40 percent of their body weight.



Beach Stone-curlew
(*Esacus magirostris*)

THREATS

The threats to shorebirds include - habitat loss/ destruction, climate change, rubbish, human disturbance and predators such as dogs. Migrating shorebirds roost and feed on the beaches. Even minor disturbances can use up critical energy reserves needed for the long flight to their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere.



Eastern Curlew
(*Numenius madagascariensis*)

CONSERVATION

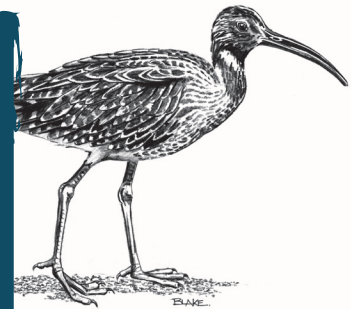
We need to protect and look after shorebird habitats. If you see nesting shorebirds on the beach, please don't disturb them and keep your dogs on a leash.

You can help shorebirds by:

- ✓ Observing from a safe distance
- ✓ Protecting wetland habitats from human impacts and further development
- ✓ Keeping your dogs at a safe distance and on a leash
- ✓ Properly discarding fishing equipment and retrieving any you find
- ✓ Reducing your use of plastic and dispose of it properly

Did You Know?

Shorebirds change their body feathers at least twice a year. Once when they attain a colourful breeding plumage, and then again when they attain a plain winter plumage.



Whimbrel
(*Numenius phaeopus*)