

TOWN COMMON WETLANDS

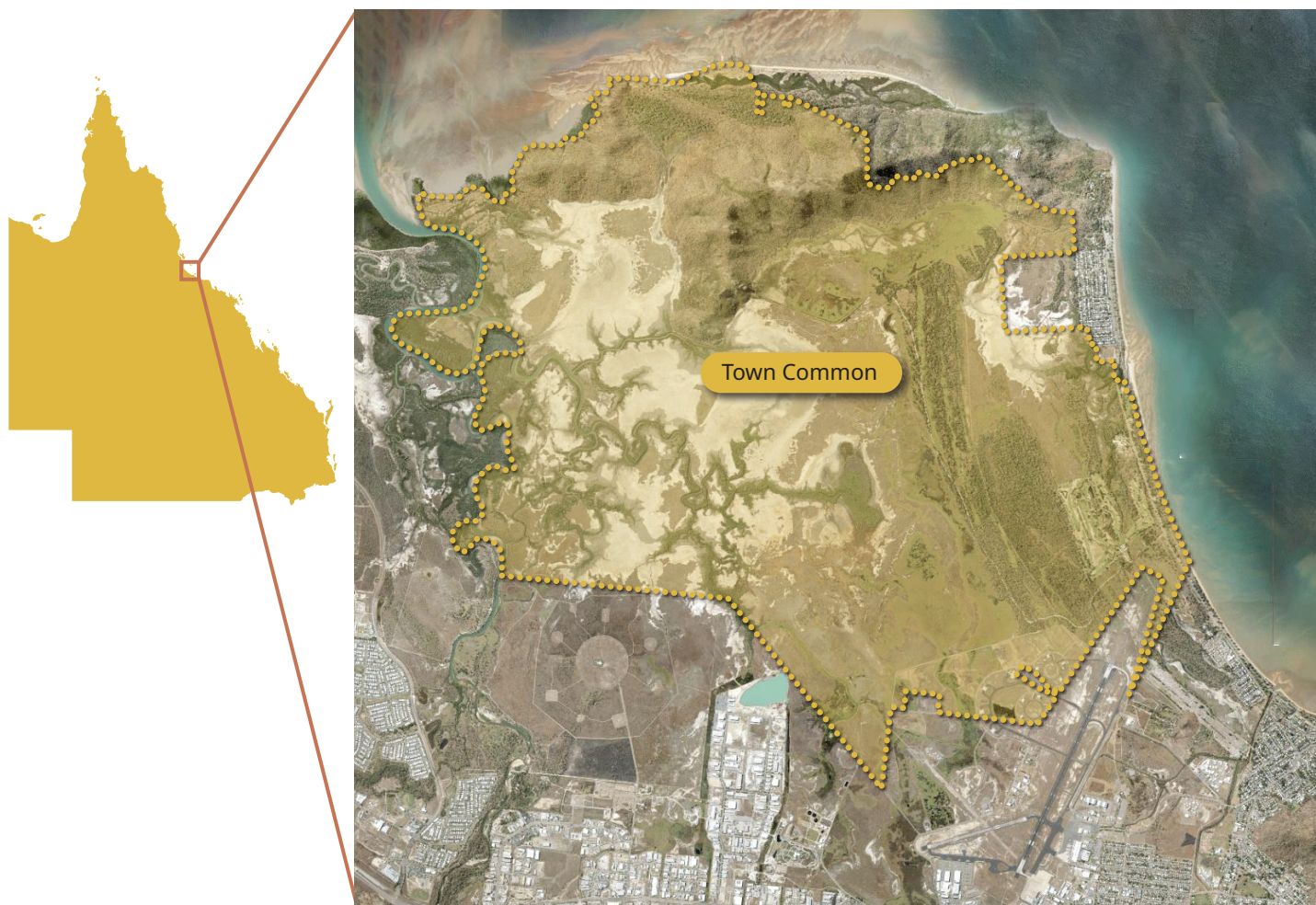
Members of Townsville's community have been enjoying the benefits of Town Common in one form or another since its gazettal in 1869. While the initial use of the Town Common was predominantly resource based e.g. grazing, quarrying, hunting and timber, current community activities associated with the Town Common are predominantly recreation based.

[Town Common Concept Plan – Revitalising the Townsville Town Common](#) (PDF, 4.4MB)

Location

The Townsville Town Common surrounds the Townsville suburb of Pallarenda and was once part of a continuous system of wetlands, sand dunes and coastal flats that stretched from Kissing Point to Pallarenda and across to the Bohle River including the Rows Bay Wetlands.

The Town Common is a short drive from Townsville's CBD and a pleasant bike ride away along the Rows Bay to Pallarenda foreshore walking and cycling pathway.



Pallarenda recreation locality, with Cape Pallarenda in the top right of the frame. The boundary of Townsville City Council's Town Common reserve is marked in yellow

Geology

The Town Common wetlands are a landscape sculpture created by climate change, wind, water, waves, weathering and erosion. The history of the Town Common wetlands is a long story. If we went on a time trip the starting point would be around 120,000 years ago.

People, Place and Change

The most significant human driven changes to the Town Common landscape and its hydrology (water movement) have occurred since 1869 when it was gazetted. During the 1870s this area was in use for pasturage of town residents and visitors' cattle and horses. The Town Common officially is gazetted as a Pasturage Reserve during 1914 under new land administration legislations (The Land Act of 1910).

Vegetation Communities

The Town Common is part of a coastal system with its own unique combination of wetlands and functions, vegetation communities and animal assemblages. Vegetation communities include small patches of coastal vine thicket, dry and seasonally wet woodlands and grasslands (aquatic and terrestrial) with a mixture of fresh and saline aquatic and semi aquatic vegetation in different zones including Samphire forblands and sedgeland.

The Town Common Conservation Park also includes the Many Peaks Range which has its own set of vegetation communities including open woodland and coastal vine thicket in sheltered pockets.

For more information [Rowes Bay Wetlands Interpretive Guide](#) (PDF, 2MB)

