Coastal Hazard Adaptation Precinct Planning - Investigation

Maroochydore

Information Sheet #1 - October 2024



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Sunshine Coast Council is undertaking Coastal Hazard Adaptation Precinct Planning at Maroochydore. The first phase of this planning is the investigation of potential adaptation options for public areas and assets, to mitigate increasing coastal hazards associated with climate change.

We have 60 kilometres of coastline along the Sunshine Coast, which makes our region a highly desirable place to live, work, and play. The coastal zone is dynamic. It faces challenges like beach erosion, shifting sands, and storm tides. There is also permanent tidal inundation of low-lying areas.

Coastal hazards, like erosion and storm surges, will increase due to climate change and rising sea levels. In order to continue to enjoy our unique coastal lifestyle we must adapt by planning for these changes. Investigations are being prepared for several coastal sites. Their goal is to find suitable adaptation options based on the characteristics of different areas.

To learn more about some of the coastal hazards and flooding affecting the Sunshine Coast, go to **Fact Sheet 01 – Common Coastal Hazard Adaptation and Flooding Terminology.**

What is a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Precinct Planning investigation?

In 2021, in consultation with our community, we prepared the Our Resilient Coast. Our Future which is the **Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS)** for the region. The Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy provided locality-specific summaries of what coastal hazards may be experienced, how and when they might affect our community, and how we could potentially adapt to them now and into the future.

The CHAS highlights Coastal Hazard Adaptation Precinct Plans. These are location-specific plans and focus on adaptation options for public areas and assets. They identify which adaptation options work for different areas and coastal hazards. They also need to consider different timeframes, and how and when adaptation could occur.

Adaptation

Adaptation is the process of adjusting to actual or expected climate and its effects. It can involve avoiding harm, changing behaviours or putting in place interventions that can reduce risk.

Coastal Hazard Adaptation

Coastal hazard adaptation comprises strategies and solutions that address the current and potential future impacts of coastal hazards. This can be achieved through modification of infrastructure or landform, changes in land-use practices, or changes to behaviour that prevent or reduce adverse impacts associated with coastal hazards.

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The Maroochydore Investigation

The Maroochydore investigation will explore what adaptation options could work in this area which extends from the Maroochy River along Bradman Avenue from Cod Hole Park to Cotton Tree, including about 500 metres landward. The investigation will also need to consider social, cultural, economic and environmental factors.

This investigation will help us to respond to the changes we are seeing for the benefit of existing and future communities. This will aim to prepare our communities for the coastal hazards in the longer term, out to the year 2100.

Our community is already experiencing adverse impacts from coastal hazards such as nuisance flooding from high tides and localised rainfall.

Without careful planning, the coastal areas where we live, work and play, as well as the critical infrastructure that supports these areas, are at risk from coastal hazards. Proactively planning for future adaptation is the best way to affordably minimise the impacts that coastal hazards will have on the things we value about our coastal places and the coastal lifestyle that makes the Sunshine Coast special.

We value our community's input. You can get involved in the Maroochydore investigation in late 2024, but our work is ongoing.



Legend

1	Maroochy Multi-Sport Complex
2	River Front
3	CBD
4	Cotton Tree

Why do we need to adapt to changes?

Our community already experiences challenges related to coastal hazards. For example, some low-lying roads are being inundated at high tides, and foreshores are being eroded during storm events.

If nothing is done, our coastal public spaces will suffer. Rising sea levels, stronger storms, intense rain, and more erosion will cause this. They will be damaged more and become less safe. Adaptation can reduce risks to our community and public infrastructure, so we can continue to use these areas.

Working together to adapt

Whilst Council plays a key role in managing coastal hazards, the effective management of these hazards requires a collaborative approach. Working together will become even more important as we respond to the hazards of a changing climate.

This cooperative effort helps safeguard our coastal lifestyle and strengthen our ability to respond to future challenges.

Proactive measures taken today will ensure that we are better equipped to face future challenges, minimise damage and ensure a more resilient Sunshine Coast for everyone.

By staying informed, understanding the risk to your property, and actively participating in planning initiatives, and disaster recovery efforts, we can collectively create a safer, more sustainable environment. This partnership between community and Council is essential for protecting our beautiful coastline and maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy on the Sunshine Coast.



Working Together

To find out more information about working together, see **Fact Sheet 03 – Working together.**



Find out more

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How is Council proactively managing our coasts?

Council's job is to plan for and manage the impacts from coastal hazards and flooding for council-managed land and assets. This often means doing detailed investigations and short-term works. It also means planning for the long term. This investigation is part of a program that aims to protect public coastal spaces from coastal hazards.

In 2014, we endorsed the **Shoreline Erosion Management Plan.** The Shoreline Erosion Management Plan is a 10-year action plan. It addresses urgent erosion issues at key sites. It also recommends ways to manage shoreline erosion. We are currently working on our second version of the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan.

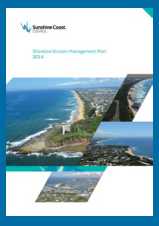
In 2017, we endorsed the **Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS).** The Strategy sets goals to guide the Council and its partners. It aims for a healthy environment and a liveable Sunshine Coast for 2041. The Coastal theme aims to 'Maintain and improve the health of our coast to a good or excellent grade by 2041.' To help achieve this, we identified several actions. This includes a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy, a Healthy Coast Management Plan, and a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan.

In 2021, we adopted the **Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy.** This Strategy provides advice on how to manage coastal hazards in our region. It will prepare us and our community to respond to them until 2100.

We are also working on the **Healthy Coast Management Plan.** which will align Council's coastal strategies and plans to guide future day-to-day management of our coast.

Without careful planning, existing development and public infrastructure are at risk from erosion, storm tide inundation, and permanent tidal inundation. Adapting to the increasing risk of coastal hazards must be done cautiously to avoid worsening the situation. To minimise the potential negative outcomes, adaptation efforts at Maroochydore will be carefully planned, taking into account its unique constraints and characteristics. An option that works in one part of Maroochydore may not be suitable for all areas.

Further Information



Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP)



Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS)



Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS)

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How can I stay informed about these projects?

We are working on many related but separate coastal management and adaptation projects. We value community input on all of these projects. These projects include:

- Healthy Coast Management Plan
- Shoreline Erosion Management Plan 2.0
- Golden Beach and Caloundra (Bulcock Beach) Coastal Hazard Adaptation Precinct Planning
- Maroochydore Coastal Hazard Adaptation Precinct Planning
- Mooloolaba Coastal Hazard Adaptation Precinct Planning

Australian Government

This investigation has received funding from the Australian Government.

How to get involved

Keep an eye on the Healthy Coastline web page and social media pages for the latest news, invitations, and progress updates.

Register for regular updates. These updates will include invitations to a range of opportunities to have your say

Further details of what areas may be subject to future coastal hazards can be found on Council's MyMaps flood mapping.

Ask a question about coastal hazards and Council's coastal planning activities by emailing **ourresilientcoast@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au**

Scan here to visit **haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/chapps**

Find out more

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