

COASTAL HAZARDS POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for council to manage current and emerging coastal hazards on council-controlled land within the context of council’s risk management framework.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- land controlled by council, and
- private land, where council is involved as a Planning Authority.

3. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this policy:

Council	Means the Clarence City Council.
Coastal Hazard	Means: (a) an area subject to significant risk from natural coastal processes and hazards such as flooding, storms, erosion, landslip, littoral drift, dune mobility and sea level rise, ¹ or (b) a potential source of harm, injury or difficulty. ²
Coastal Inundation	Means an event where seawater rises and submerges land normally above the National Tidal Centre High Water Mark. ³

¹ State Coastal Policy 1996

² Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual 2010

³ National Tidal Centre, a division of the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology

<p>Extreme Risk</p>	<p>Means a risk that poses extensive detrimental long-term impacts on the environment and community, e.g. impacts that may be a result of chronic coastal flooding, erosion of coastal ecosystems and sea water intrusion into freshwater systems.</p>
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4. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides the framework for council to:

- Establish council’s approach to decision-making in relation to risks arising from coastal hazards.
- Provide for the development of local coastal management plans through coastline monitoring and evidence-based advice for areas requiring coordinated long-term responses to coastal hazards.

PRINCIPLES

Coastal hazards such as erosion and inundation are natural processes that affect the coastal zone. A changing climate may lead to extreme weather events and sea level rise which may increase the risks from coastal hazards.

Natural processes will be allowed to occur without intervention unless extreme risk arises.

Council will aim to achieve a balance between providing safe access and recreational amenity while allowing natural processes to occur.

Capital and ongoing costs for coastal protection works will be paid for in a fair manner by all who benefit.

Engineering solutions will be a last resort and only considered where the public benefit outweighs costs and beneficiaries are willing and have the capacity to pay.

5. RELATIONSHIP TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

Council's Strategic Plan 2016 – 2026 (the Plan) provides for the protection, management and enhancement of the city's natural assets for the long-term benefit of the community. Specifically, the strategies outlined include:

- *Continuing to work with all levels of government to meet national climate change objectives as agreed to following the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21, Paris) – the United Nations framework convention on climate change.*
- *Developing climate change adaptation and mitigation action plans to meet the agreed response to climate change impacts.*
- *Considering the impacts on all asset management plans and land-use planning strategies.*
- *Ensuring the community is well informed of potential impacts, particularly coastal communities.*
- *Protect natural assets within Council managed land through development and review of strategies in relation to bushfire, weed, land and coastal management.*

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

The legislation and documents listed below form the framework to give effect to this policy:

LEGISLATIVE (ACTS, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS)

- State Coastal Policy 1996

COUNCIL POLICY, PLANS, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

- Clarence City Council Risk Management Policy
- SGS Economics and Planning "Issues Paper – Coastal Policy" dated 20 March 2019 and SGS Economics and Planning "Clarence Coastal Policy" report dated 16 August 2019

7. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

RESPONSIBILITIES

COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Approving development that meets requirements of the planning scheme and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, recognising the State Coastal Policy.
- Reviewing and updating coast related aspects of the planning scheme to recognise coastal vulnerability assessments and other relevant risk assessments.
- Taking ecological, cultural, aboriginal heritage values and conservation of biodiversity into account when responding to coastal hazards.
- Coordinating response to identified 'extreme risk' coastal hazards on council-controlled public land.
- Coordinating coastal protection works on land where there is a significant public benefit, and that benefit outweighs the cost.
- Collaborating with key stakeholders to manage coastal hazards.

COUNCIL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- The protection of State or Federally managed land from coastal hazards.
- Protecting private property from coastal hazards.
- Maintaining coastal protection works that are primarily for the protection of private property.
- Unless public assets are involved, coastal protection works for private property will not be located on public land.

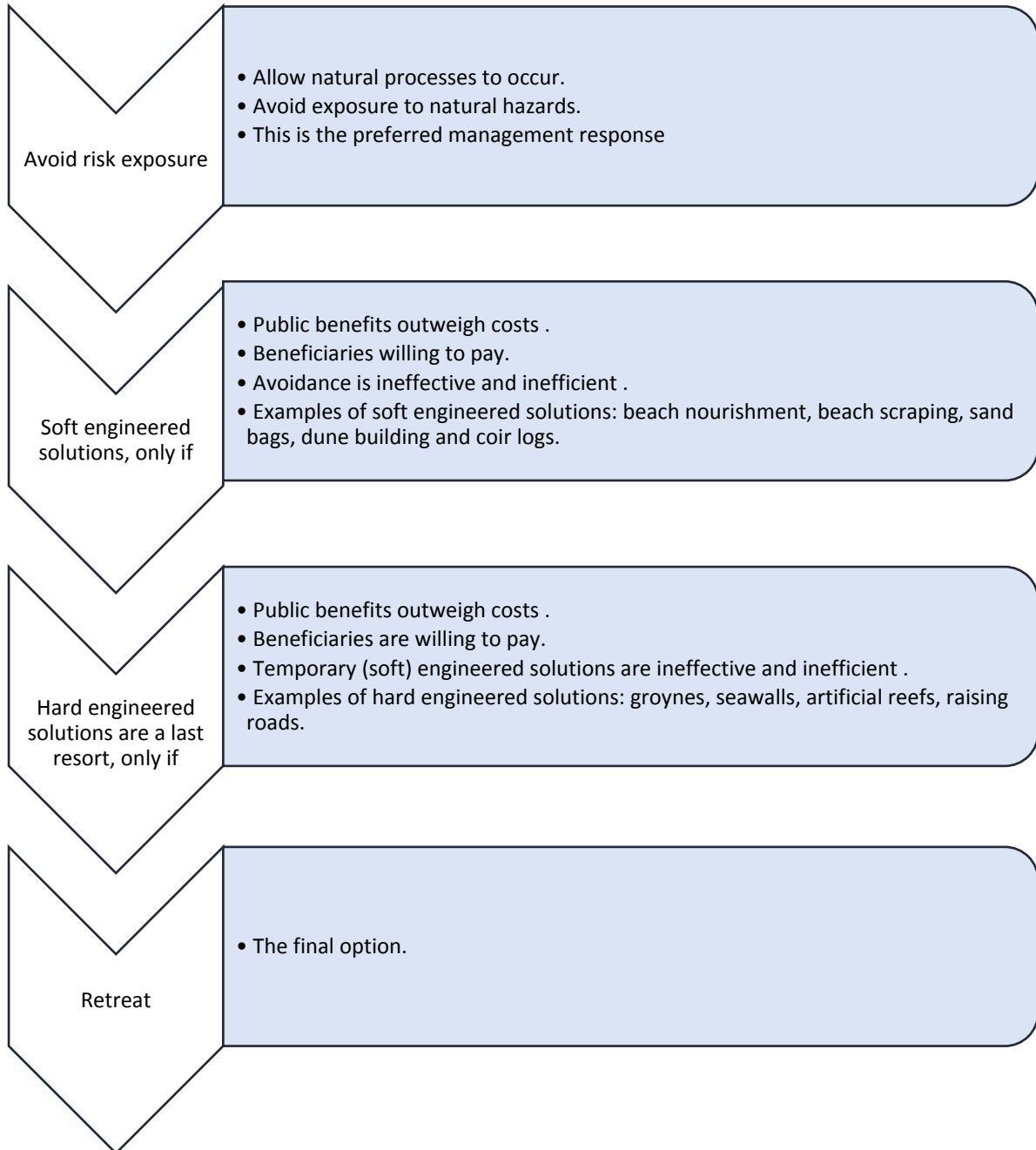
LOCAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Council will develop local coastal management plans through coastline monitoring and evidence-based information for areas requiring coordinated long-term responses to coastal hazards.

- The plans will consider environmental, social and economic values; responses to coastal hazards through development of coastal adaptation pathways; how protection responses will be funded; distribution of costs and benefits among stakeholders.
- Local coastal management plans will be developed in consultation with the community and key stakeholders.
- The local coastal management plans will be reviewed periodically using the best available evidence, new relevant scientific data/modelling and best practice coastal management techniques.
- Planning for coastal reserves will include consideration of the need for coastal vegetation and animals to migrate inland and for public infrastructure such as roads and tracks to be moved inland.
- Council will make approved local coastal management plans available to the public.



DECISION MAKING MODEL



8. IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Group Manager Engineering Services is responsible for the implementation of this Policy.

This policy will be communicated via:

- council’s website
- internal circulation to staff
- council’s social media and local advertising, and
- direct communication to those most vulnerable communities.

9. REPORTING

Not applicable.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

No.	Date	Brief Details
1	8 Nov 21	Drafting error, council IS responsible for collaborating with stakeholders to manage coastal hazards.

APPROVAL

COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE	18 January 2021
REVIEW	Every 5 years
RESPONSIBLE POSITION	Group Manager Engineering Services
ECM REFERENCE	