



Clarence... a brighter place

Information Sheet

Coastal Hazards Policy and Coastal Management Plans



■ Aerial view of Cremorne.

BACKGROUND

The City of Clarence features around 191 kilometres of coastline. Natural coastal processes make some of this coastline vulnerable to being eroded away or flooded by the sea. There is an increasing risk over time that erosion or flooding will become hazards to people, natural assets or property because the level of the sea is rising in response to rising global average temperatures.

The likely impact of the rising sea level on coastal communities in Clarence has been extensively investigated by council. Maps from models of probable landward movement (recession) of the shoreline in 2020, 2050, 2075 and 2100 have been available to the public for more than a decade. Council monitors municipal beaches annually - using historical and new aerial photographs and remote light sensing data - so maps showing actual changes in the shoreline from 1957 to 2020 are available on council's website (see website at www.ccc.tas.gov.au/climate-change).

COASTAL HAZARDS POLICY

Council endorsed the Clarence City Council Coastal Hazards Policy in January 2021. The policy is available for public information on council's website (www.ccc.tas.gov.au/policies).

The Coastal Hazards Policy sets up a framework to develop 'local coastal management plans' for areas that require a coordinated and long-term response to coastal

risks and hazards. These local coastal management plans will focus on documenting pathways to adapt to hazards on the coast. These plans will complement council's existing 'Reserve Activity Plans' that address broader coastal management such as managing the natural, cultural and recreational values of the reserve.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

The coastal management plans will be developed for vulnerable sites (see figure 1) with input from community and stakeholders. Finalised plans will be made available to the public once they're adopted.

Council's comprehensive 2008 report 'Climate Change Impacts on Clarence Coastal Areas' (available on council's website at www.ccc.tas.gov.au/climate-change) identified 18 areas on the Clarence coast vulnerable to hazards being generated from rising sea levels.

PIPE CLAY LAGOON & ROCHES BEACH

Council has funded plans for priority areas including Pipe Clay Lagoon in Cremorne and Roches Beach in Lauderdale for 2022. Work on these plans has begun. Data collection will be the first stage of developing the plans and this will be completed in the 2021-22 financial year. Council has appointed coastal engineering consultants to assist.



Clarence... a brighter place

Information Sheet

Coastal Hazards Policy and Coastal Management Plans

PRIORITY AREAS AT RISK

- Roches Beach
- Ralphs Bay
- Lauderdale
- Ocean Beach
- Cremorne
- Clifton Beach
- South Arm Neck

MEDIUM-TERM RISK

- Clifton Beach
- South Arm Beach Half Moon Bay
- Kangaroo Bay
- Bellerive
- Rokeby and Droughty Point Road

LONG-TERM RISK

- Seven Mile Beach
- Howrah and Little Howrah Beaches
- Mays Beach
- Montagu Bay
- Opossum Bay, Opossum Bay Beach, Glenvar Beach
- Hope Beach

■ Figure 1: The 18 areas identified on Clarence's coast that are vulnerable to hazards being generated from rising sea levels.

The plans will include:

- Results of new data collections, for example local tidal water levels and shoreline elevations.
- New data will be included in refined models which will more accurately quantify coastal hazards.
- Options for managing eroding or flooding shorelines.
- Costs and benefits of optional responses to coastal hazards.
- Providing recommendations on how the responses will be funded.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL AND PROPERTY OWNERS

The Coastal Hazards Policy also outlines responsibilities and principles to help council make decisions involving coastal development and use on public and private land (where council is involved as a Planning Authority).

The policy outlines that while council, in conjunction with the Crown (State Government), is responsible for responding to coastal hazards that present extensive detrimental long-term impacts on the environment and community, council is not responsible for funding the protection of private property from coastal hazards. The relevant principle in the Coastal Hazards Policy states that "capital and ongoing costs for coastal protection works will be paid for in a fair manner by all who benefit."

The Coastal Hazards Policy includes a decision hierarchy which states that hard engineered protection works are the least favoured option for protecting coastal property and assets: "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."

These are the sort of issues that will be discussed by council and the community.

Council recognises that this is a challenging issue for all community members who live on and value the coastline. We would like to hear from all stakeholders on how we can collectively plan for and adapt to coastal hazards in the future.



■ Roches Beach in Lauderdale.