



What is a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy?

Douglas Shire Council has commenced the development of a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS). The CHAS will be used to inform future decisions regarding the protection and management of our coast and foreshore. This will inform future land use planning, as well as guide the management of public utilities and facilities, and areas of environmental and cultural significance. It will be a transparent process that will involve engagement with all stakeholders.

Council has received financial assistance from the Queensland Government and the Local Governments Association of Queensland (LGAQ) through the QCoast2100 Program, and like other Queensland local governments, is applying the recommended process to develop a CHAS. Further information on Phase 1 - 8 of a CHAS process can be found here: <http://www.qcoast2100.com.au/program-purpose>.

In early 2017, Council commissioned the development of a communication and stakeholder engagement plan (Phase 1) as well as a desktop review of known coastal hazard issues (Phase 2). In October 2017, Council engaged consultants Alluvium Consulting and Jeremy Benn Pacific to undertake Phases 3 – 5 of the CHAS over the next six months.

Identifying areas exposed to current and future coastal hazards

The current phase of work (Phase 3) will identify and document areas that may be exposed to coastal hazards in the future. Hazards include short and long term erosion and storm tide inundation of low-lying coastal land. Technical assessments include consideration of geomorphology, geology, tides and waves, climate (including cyclones), potential sea level rise, infrastructure and assets in the coastal zone, and predicted erosion and inundation potential. In late 2017, field visits were completed by Council officers and the consultants to inform the assessments.

Next steps

Areas likely to be exposed to coastal hazards will be mapped and presented to Council. The potential impact of these coastal hazards will be explored in consultation with the Douglas communities during Phases 4 and 5 of the CHAS process. Council and the project team invite the Douglas Communities and all interested parties to get involved via the links provided below.

How can I find out more information?

Council has established an external Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) chaired by Mayor Julia Leu. The group will work alongside Council to provide advice and discuss progress on a regular basis. In addition, there are many other ways for the Douglas Communities and interested parties to get involved.

- Register to receive regular progress updates and notifications of public meetings by going to <https://douglaschas.engagementhub.com.au/> and click on the 'Register here to receive project updates' button
- Ask Council or their experts questions about coastal hazards or the CHAS process by emailing ourcoast@douglas.qld.gov.au

Over the next six months Council will be arranging a number of public meetings and show cases to share project progress and to provide an opportunity for the Douglas communities to discuss any concerns or share their ideas about coastal management and protection. Keep an eye on the project website <https://douglaschas.engagementhub.com.au/> or register above for details when they are released.