



Coastal Hazards Policy

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Version:	1.0
Responsible Officer:	Manager Environmental Services
Strategic Plan Reference:	1.4 A Council that acknowledges the existence of a climate change and biodiversity emergency and has in place strategies to respond

1. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 1.1 This policy provides the framework for Council's decision-making approach to risks arising from coastal hazards, working towards best practice management of Council's coastal assets and an associated risk reduction.
- 1.2 Coastal hazards such as erosion and inundation are natural processes that affect the coastal zone. A changing climate will continue to lead to increased sea levels and extreme weather events, which in turn increases the risk from coastal hazards.
- 1.3 Council recognises the significant cost implications of coastal hazard protection work and the limited resources available to undertake such work.
- 1.4 Intervention will only be considered where and when the public benefit outweighs the costs.
- 1.5 Natural processes will be allowed to occur, without intervention, unless risk to public safety or Council assets becomes intolerable.
- 1.6 Council will aim to achieve a balance between providing asset protection, safe access to public land and recreational amenity in coastal areas, while allowing natural processes to occur.
- 1.7 Council will consider impacts on ecological, biodiversity and cultural values when assessing and responding to coastal hazards.
- 1.8 Council will aim to ensure that Council owned, coastal dependent development and community infrastructure is resilient to coastal hazards.
- 1.9 Council will consider the impact of all work undertaken within the coastal area in regard to the potential for creating or intensifying the impacts of coastal hazards.
- 1.10 Council does not accept any obligation to repair or reduce the impacts of natural coastal hazards on non-Council owned or managed assets sited on Council land. Protection of private coastal assets is not the responsibility of Council, including privately owned land.
- 1.11 Council will support individuals and organisations to understand the risks associated with coastal processes and hazards through the provision of information.

2. DEFINITIONS

In the context of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- 2.1 **Adaptation** means the process of adjustment to actual, or expected, climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm, or exploit beneficial opportunities.
- 2.2 **Asset** means something that has potential or actual value to the decision-maker, community and stakeholders. Assets may be natural or man-made and may include, but are not limited to; the beach, foreshore reserve, dunes, flora and fauna, reserve amenities, car parks, paths, public ablutions, playgrounds and other recreational equipment, infrastructure for public safety and pedestrian access, structures such as ramps, stairs and paths, recreational boating facilities and protection structures such as groynes and seawalls.
- 2.3 **Coastal dependent development** means those assets or developments for which there is a demonstrated need to be located at a coastal location, including but not limited to boat storage, marine facilities, marine-related public open space & recreation facilities, roads and jetties.
- 2.4 **Coastal hazard** means a source of potential harm. An area subject to significant risk from natural coastal processes such as flooding, storms, erosion, land slip, littoral drift, dune mobility and sea level rise.
- 2.5 **Coastal processes** means natural processes including ecological, waves, tides and tidal currents, estuaries and sand movement.
- 2.6 **Coastal zone** means the area of land that is influenced by coastal processes and hazards.

- 2.7 **Intervention** means any form of activity or work which aims to reduce the impact of coastal hazards on land within the coastal zone, including but not limited to, dune stabilisation, revetments, seawalls and groynes.
- 2.8 **Risk** means the probability or likelihood of harm occurring, including injury to or loss of life, damage to or loss of assets, economic loss, or any other undesirable consequence relating to a hazard. Factors which influence risk include the nature of the hazard, degree of exposure and severity of the effect.

3. OBJECTIVE

- 3.1 To state Council's position on coastal hazard management and guide Council's coastal management activities, including capital, operational and emergency works, with the objective of achieving risk reduction and the protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of coastal public lands under Council management.
- 3.2 Establish a framework to guide Council officer decision making in relation to risks arising from coastal hazards.
- 3.3 To understand and proactively plan for the impacts of coastal hazards on Council assets.
- 3.4 To ensure Council investment in community infrastructure is cost effective and appropriate.
- 3.5 To source relevant information to allow Council to map coastal hazard vulnerability and risk.
- 3.6 To further a shared understanding of coastal hazard management and the need for adaptation planning in order to minimise the impact on assets in the coastal zone.
- 3.7 To ensure trigger indicators are monitored and the results used to determine when intervention should be implemented, and that performance indicators are utilised to track the success of coastal management and hazard protection work.
- 3.8 To build climate and disaster resilience for our community.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1 This policy applies to land in the coastal zone that is influenced by coastal processes and hazards.

5. PROCEDURE (POLICY DETAIL)

5.1 Decision Making Framework

Council will use defined evidence and risk-based approaches to decision making in coastal hazard areas. The decision-making framework is to be used when considering coastal hazard mitigation and protection works and land use planning in coastal areas and will consider both the short and longer-term consequences of planning and land use decisions.

5.2 Prioritisation

Council will use a prioritised approach to the protection of coastal assets arising from coastal hazards in the coastal zone.

5.3 Coastal Management Plans

Council will develop local area coastal management plans for areas requiring long term coordinated responses to coastal hazards. Coastal management plans will be based on coastline monitoring, evidence-based local and national data and expert knowledge.

5.4 Risk Register

Council will maintain a register of assets that are assessed as vulnerable to coastal hazards to ensure appropriate management and monitoring is undertaken.

5.5 Monitoring

Council will monitor coastal hazard risks for Council owned land and assets. Council may provide guidance to other land and asset managers to plan and implement risk mitigation in a coordinated way in the coastal zone.

6. GUIDELINES

6.1 Decision Making Framework

Council will assess coastal hazards and sites against a framework which includes five categories of adaptation response in the coastal zone:

6.1.1 Avoidance

Locate new public infrastructure outside the coastal hazard area. Unless there is significant public benefit, or assets are determined to be low cost or short life cycle, Council will generally avoid intensifying the use or development of coastal hazard areas and will progressively reduce vulnerable infrastructure as resources permit.

6.1.2 Managed retreat

Where existing public infrastructure is at risk, consideration is given to permanently remove or relocate hard infrastructure outside the coastal hazard area and natural processes are allowed to continue without intervention.

6.1.3 Infrastructure modification

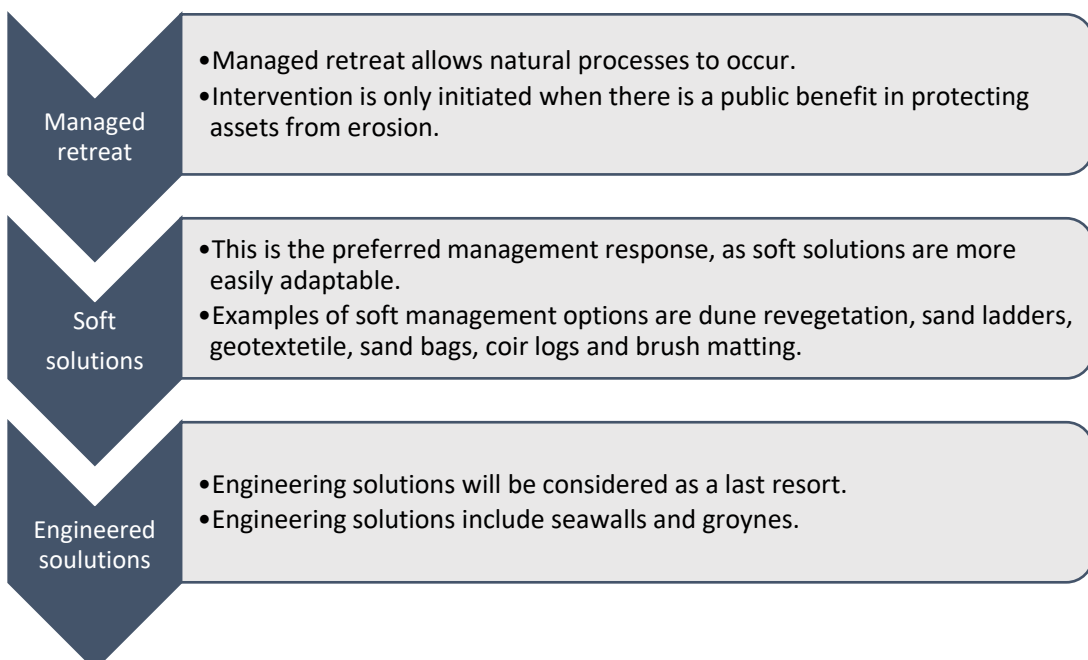
Where removal or relocation is not feasible, consideration is given to accommodating public infrastructure within the coastal hazard area by modifying infrastructure to be removable and/ or making infrastructure more resilient to coastal hazards.

6.1.4 Hold the line

If intervention or protection measures are required, a range of coastal management and engineering solutions are considered on a site-by-site basis, with consideration given to the coastal protection hierarchy.

6.2 Coastal protection hierarchy

When undertaking coastal protection work, consideration to the coastal protection hierarchy will be:



- 6.3 Coastal protection works are designed, managed and renewed to be fit-for-purpose and minimise risk or cost for full asset life cycle.
- 6.4 Planning and development in the coastal hazard area provide for resilient communities and infrastructure.

7. COMMUNICATION

- 7.1 This Policy is intended for Council Employees and Councillors.
- 7.2 The policy is publicly accessible via Council's website.
- 7.3 Council's coastal hazards decision making framework will be publicly available via Council's website.

8. LEGISLATION

- 8.1 *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993.*
- 8.2 *Tasmanian State Coastal Policy 1996.*
- 8.3 *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975.*
- 8.4 *Local Government Act 1993.*

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme 2015 or subsequent scheme.
- 9.2 Regional Strategy – Adapting to a changing coastline in Tasmania.
- 9.3 Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual.
- 9.4 CoastAdapt.

10. AUDIENCE

- 10.1 Council employees and Councillors.
- 10.2 The public on Council's website.