





Hervey Bay Esplanade

The Coastal Futures: Planning Our Changing Coastline project is all about getting ready for the short, medium and long-term impacts of coastal hazards.

We are working to develop a strategy to plan for, protect, or mitigate the impacts of coastal hazards on:

-  **Community infrastructure** - like boat ramps, walking paths and playgrounds.
-  **Environmental features** - like dunes, wetlands and trees.
-  **Built assets** - like businesses, homes, tourist accommodation, roads and services pipes.
-  **Indigenous and cultural assets** - like significant sites and heritage buildings.

The last time we consulted with you was to understand what places and aspects of the coast you value most. Since then the team have undertaken further technical work and met with a range of stakeholders to better understand the projected impacts of coastal hazards to the Fraser Coast coastline and how we might respond to them.

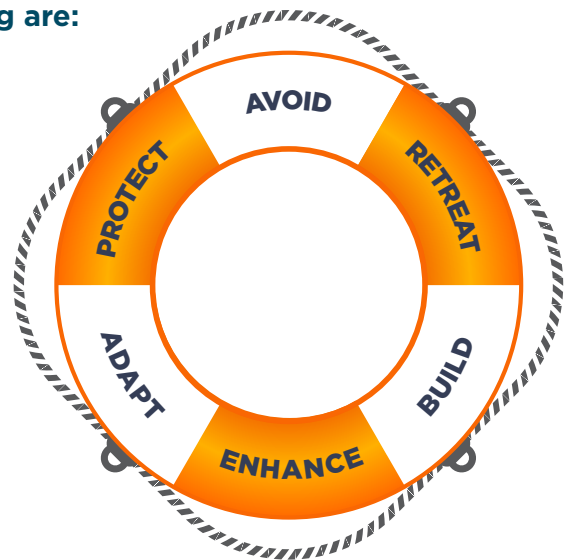
Now we are seeking to explore what types of adaptation responses you think are acceptable, to help inform the development of the draft Coastal Futures strategy.

Our life ring - how we can respond

Each of the coastal localities in the Fraser Coast region is different and will need its own strategy for the future. Uniting all the localities is the Coastal Futures life ring that will inform our approach to coastal hazard adaptation.

The six guiding strategies of the Coastal Futures life ring are:

- 01. Avoid** building new things in hazard areas.
- 02. Retreat** existing buildings and infrastructure out of high-risk areas over time.
- 03. Build community resilience** through education and community awareness measures.
- 04. Enhance coastline resilience** by protecting and/or reinstating natural coastal ecosystems - like stabilising dunes, or revegetating mangroves.
- 05. Adapt** existing and future buildings, structures and infrastructure to be able to accommodate coastal changes - building things 'higher and stronger', evacuation planning.
- 06. Protect/defend** priority shorelines, localities and infrastructure through the use of beach nourishment, seawalls, levees, groynes or other structures.



When we are considering these options for each locality, we need to think about:

Will it be financially sustainable? Adaptation can be expensive, and we can't protect the whole coastline. We need to focus on low cost solutions wherever we can, and prioritise where and when we invest in high cost shoreline protection.

How can we protect what we love and value? Protecting our coastline should align with what we value.

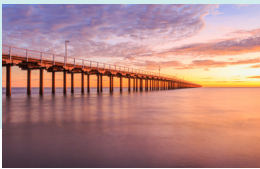
How can we maximise the benefits? When we invest in coastal hazard adaptation, we want to make sure that we maximise community benefits for the region as a whole.

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Our coastal values

The Hervey Bay Esplanade is loved by residents and visitors alike. Extending from Point Vernon to Urangan, the Esplanade is one of the most popular areas in the region for recreation, swimming, shopping, dining out, events and tourist accommodation. Residents and visitors highly value the sheltered beaches, parks and bike paths along the Esplanade as well as the Pier and Torquay Park precinct.



Our vulnerabilities

Community representatives from Point Vernon to Urangan identified that coastal hazards impacts could result in:

- Impacts to key infrastructure like the Point Vernon Sewer Treatment, Wetside Water Park, Seafront Oval or the Urangan or Scarness piers which may result in high repair/relocation costs or pollution.
- Damage to housing and businesses and loss of property.
- Impacts to Great Sandy Marine Park, and flora (vegetation and seagrass) and fauna (turtles, dugong, fish nurseries) generally that are important to local tourism and recreation.
- Impacts on esplanade beaches which are highly valued for tourism and local recreation.

Adaptation ideas suggested so far

Here are some of the adaptation ideas suggested by community representatives and key stakeholders for Hervey Bay Esplanade. These ideas, and yours, will be tested as the draft Coastal Futures Strategy is developed.

Protect foreshores through targeted beach nourishment, dune restoration and stabilisation programs, in partnership with the community, and by formalising beach access points.

Short to long term, low to medium cost.

Limiting development by amending land use controls and design requirements to **avoid** increasing exposure.

Short to long term, low cost.

Accommodate hazards through changes to building design and subsidising adaptive design.

Medium term, medium to high cost.

Retreat by relocating vulnerable houses and businesses.

Medium to long term, medium to high cost.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

We'd like to hear from you...

We are interested in your feedback about how we should respond to coastal hazards, to help inform preparation of a draft Coastal Futures strategy. Your feedback will be considered along with technical and financial information so that we can help shape a strategy that responds to the needs of community and Council.

Please complete the survey for any locality of interest to you via <https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/coastal-futures-planning-our-changing-coastline>. The survey will close at 11:55 PM Sunday 16 August 2020.