Burrum Heads

Coastal Adaptation Strategies Survey Responses (July/August 2020)

Respondent characteristics:



Guiding strategy preferences for Burrum Heads:

All adaptation strategies received high levels of support from respondents. Build, enhance and avoid responses had the highest levels of community support. Protect/defend and retreat responses had comparatively lower levels of support.



Figure 1: Preferred response strategies for Burrum Heads

Key feedback:

- 1. Stabilise and protect foreshore areas by re-establishing native vegetation buffers. Sirenia Beach and Beach Drive are key locations to implement natural protection measures.
- Stop unlawful vegetation clearing over private properties in foreshore areas to enhance coastline resilience - there is support for stronger regulation and punishment of unlawful clearing in these areas.
- 3. Prevent new development in areas at-risk through planning scheme responses (e.g. zoning). The Open Space and Sport and Recreation zone could be used to discourage inappropriate development and land uses in vulnerable areas.













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- 4. New development, in areas of current and future risk, should be designed and constructed using resilient and adaptable construction methods (e.g. 'pier and pole' construction). There is concern with 'slab on ground' construction methods in these areas, due to the difficulty in relocating buildings constructed using this method. Some respondents emphasised the need to protect new development in foreshore areas, referencing the 'On the Beach' and 'Dolphin Waters' estates.
- 5. The upgrade of Burrum Heads Road is important to ensure it remains 'inundation proof' into the future and allows evacuation and access during a hazard event.
- 6. Key public infrastructure and community services such as the Rural Fire Service, SES and Community Hall, should be re-located or protected.
- 7. Access to information can assist in building community resilience. Community education should be achieved through circulating collateral (fridge magnets etc.), partnerships with community organisations (schools, fishing club, outrigger clubs etc.) and development of a community evacuation plan for Burrum Heads. Education on coastal hazards and evacuation should prioritise for residents in at-risk locations, such as Sirenia Beach, and vulnerable people (e.g. older people; people with a disability).
- 8. Hard engineering measures, such as sea walls, should only be used where necessary. There is concern about their potential impacts on scenic amenity. If implemented, they should be combined with walking paths and protect marine habitat in important areas like Beelbi Creek.

How people would like to be involved

The majority of respondents are willing to volunteer to monitor coastal changes and issues in their locality, accept an increase in rates or undertake works to their property or building to protect against coastal hazards. There were lower levels of support for having no involvement (in time or funds) or paying a levy to fund adaptation works.



Figure 2: Preferred involvement in coastal adaption in Burrum Heads











