Hervey Bay

Coastal Adaptation Strategies Survey Responses (July/August 2020)

Respondent characteristics

197 responses

Almost all respondents were Hervey Bay residents (**97%**)

About one-third of live on a coastal Esplanade (**32%**)

13% of respondents were business owners

10% of respondents identified themselves as workers

8% of respondents were a part of a community group

Guiding strategy preferences for Hervey Bay

There were high levels of support for all the adaptation strategies. The enhance and avoid responses had the highest levels of community support. The protect/defend and retreat approaches had comparatively lower levels of support.

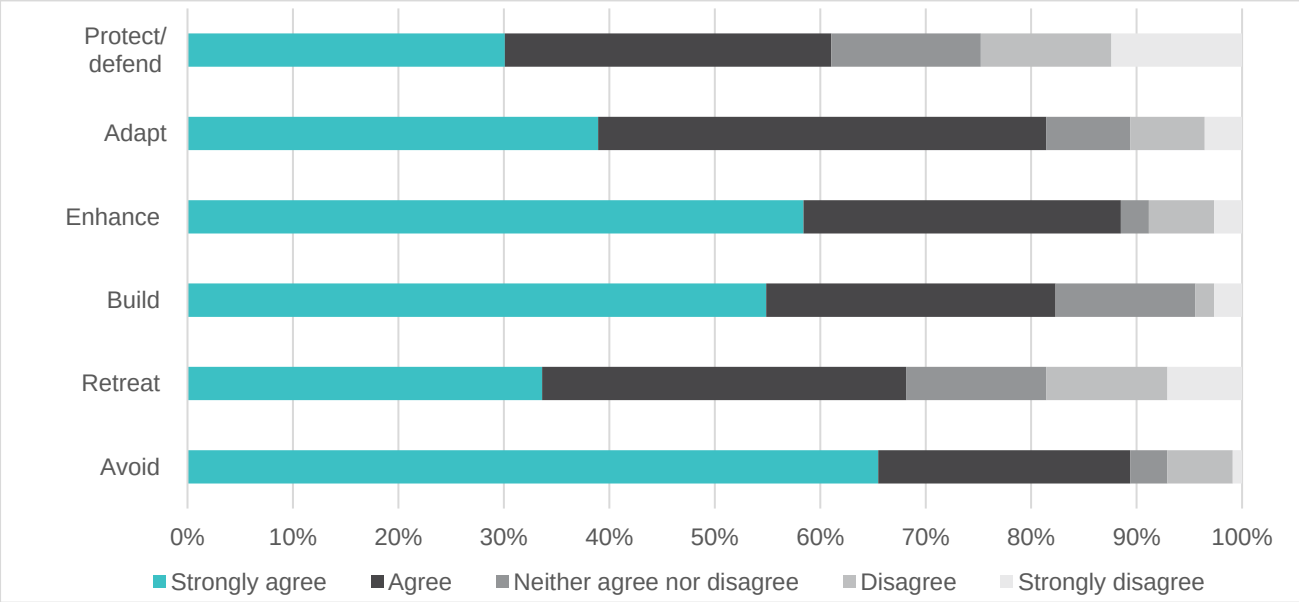

Figure 1: Preferred response strategies for Hervey Bay

Key feedback:

1. Enhance coastline resilience through ecosystem-based responses, such as dune stabilisation, protection and restoration of native vegetation, and increasing natural buffers. Point Vernon and Eli Creek were key areas identified for foreshore protection.
2. Amend planning scheme zones and implement a long-term land buy back strategy to minimise risk and prevent new development in coastal hazards risk areas. High-risk areas could be rezoned to Open space and Sport and recreation zones to ensure only risk-appropriate uses such as natural vegetation reserves, parks, sporting fields, camping grounds or dog parks occur. Prohibit further development around the foreshore, The Esplanade and lower lying areas of Eli Creek/Point Vernon.

3. Develop a staged relocation plan for development affected by coastal hazards. Buildings, infrastructure, and services should be moved further inland as they become redundant or exposed to high hazard risk.
4. The development of rock walls can be considered where proven to not cause detrimental impacts on the natural environment or scenic amenity. Other hard engineering responses suggested for Hervey Bay include the use of artificial reefs, tidal barrage and floating barriers.
5. Planning controls should be implemented to ensure existing coastal dependent development, such as the Urangan Boat Harbour and Pier, are upgraded and enhanced to increase resilience. Planning controls should also ensure that new development subject to current and future coastal hazard risk is designed and constructed using stronger, more adaptable materials.
6. The highest priority public infrastructure and community services that should be protected from coastal hazards impacts through their re-location out of at-risk areas are emergency services, schools, road transport, WetSide Water Park, Point Vernon Sewage Pump and Seafront Oval.
7. Increased community education and awareness through better access to information and warning systems are integral in building community resilience. School programs, open forums, online education tools and fixed displays at beachside locations (i.e. Urangan Pier, Enzos and Aquavue) are key tools to increase community awareness and education of coastal hazards. Council should also notify property and business owners located in at-risk areas.
8. There are divergent views on who should be responsible for the costs associated with relocating properties and infrastructure out of coastal hazard extents – some believe it should be funded by Council and others think that it should be at the cost of the landowner. The costs associated with implementing adaptation options must be managed effectively to ensure transparency around land acquisition decisions.

How people would like to be involved

Most respondents would like to be involved in coastal hazard adaptation through volunteering to monitor coastal changes and issues. There were similar proportions of people who indicated that they would be willing to undertake works on their property or support a rate increase to protect against coastal hazards. However, about the same number of people also said that they did not want to contribute time or funds to coastal hazard adaptation works. Paying a levy to fund coastal hazard adaptation works had the lowest level of support from respondents.

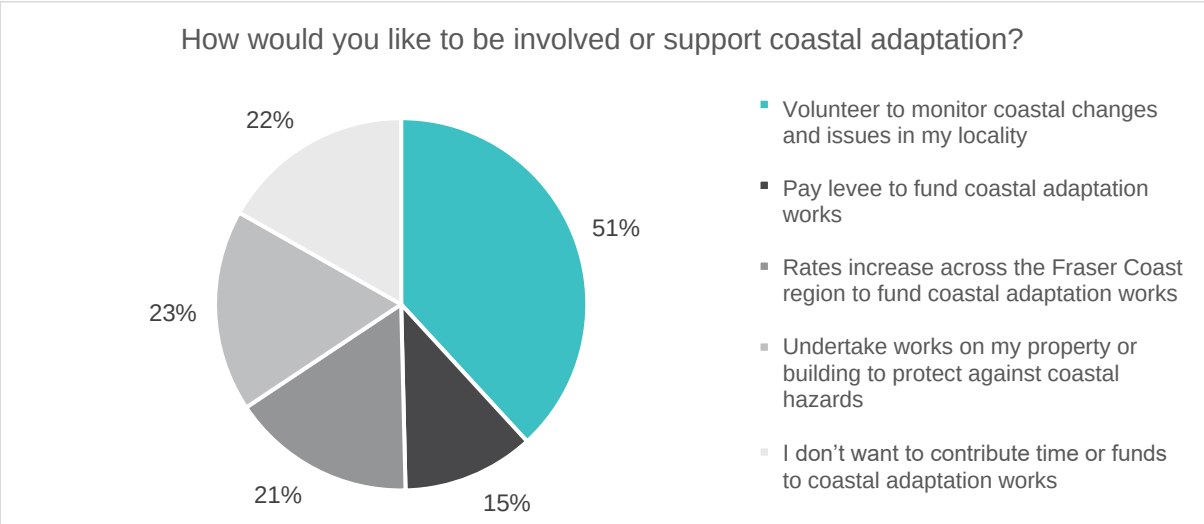

Figure 2: Preferred involvement in coastal adaption in Hervey Bay