



THE FRONTLINE NEWS

Coastal Management in Shoalhaven

Shoalhaven
City Council

In recent years there has been growing discussion around coastal hazards, risk management and climate change. Shoalhaven City Council is embarking on a community engagement process which includes Frontline News.

In this first issue we provide an introduction to some of the issues around managing coastal risk in Shoalhaven.

The Natural Resources & Floodplain Unit of Council is largely responsible for coast and estuary management. Three of the ten staff in the Unit are directly involved in the day to day and long term strategic management of our coastline and estuaries. Included in their responsibilities are;

- Facilitating the maintenance, repair and upgrade of coastal assets
- Applying for grants to implement coastal management projects, then managing and reporting on those projects
- Liaising and working with the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) and other government agencies
- Engaging with coastal communities
- Developing site specific rehabilitation plans.

Documents relating to the management of Shoalhaven's coastline and estuaries are available on Council's Website (www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au), together with links to related, broader coastal management issues. Choose the Environment tab on the home page and then select Coastline and Waterways.

Have you heard of the seventies storms?

Coastal Management, as a government supported process, began in NSW following these devastating storms.

While coastal management remained a function of local government, the NSW Government developed a range of measures to provide legislative and financial support to local government accompanied by technical advice, including

- 1979 NSW Coastal Protection Act
- 1980s NSW Beach Improvement Program
- 1990 NSW Coastal Management Program
- 1992 Coastline Management Manual
- 1997 NSW Coastal Policy
- 2002 Amendments to Coastal Protection Act: greater statutory power for CZMPs
- 2009 NSW Sea Level Rise Policy
- 2010 Amendments to Coastal Protection Act, including guidelines for preparing CZMPs

In 2012, the Coastal Protection Act was amended again.

At this time state-wide, sea level rise benchmarks were withdrawn giving councils flexibility to consider coastal hazards in the context of local circumstances.

This amendment is also known as Stage One Coastal Reforms. The NSW Government is now considering Stage 2 Coastal Reforms.

2012 also saw the completion of Shoalhaven's draft CZMP, prepared in accordance with NSW Government guidelines. It's primarily designed to manage coastal hazards and the resulting risks which include;

- Beach erosion - storm bite
- Shoreline recession
- Sand drift from wind blown sand
- Slope instability on headlands and bluffs
- Coastal inundation, including estuaries
- Storm water erosion.

Collingwood Beach

The storms of the 1970s provide a graphic picture of the risks associated with coastal erosion. A storm of this magnitude is regarded as an immediate risk i.e. it can occur at any time.



At Collingwood Beach (Vincentia) following storms in 1974 & 1975, the general width of the dune & public reserve was reduced from 30 metres to 17 metres, and as narrow as 7 metres near Berry Street.

How is coastal risk defined?

With the coastal hazard lines shown on maps in the draft Shoalhaven CZMP.

[Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan](http://goo.gl/NWYf3W)
- <http://goo.gl/NWYf3W>



Red: immediate hazard i.e. damage from an extreme storm that may occur at any time

Blue: risk by 2025

Orange: risk by 2050

Pink: risk by 2100.

The areas between the lines create precincts which are subject to varying development controls.

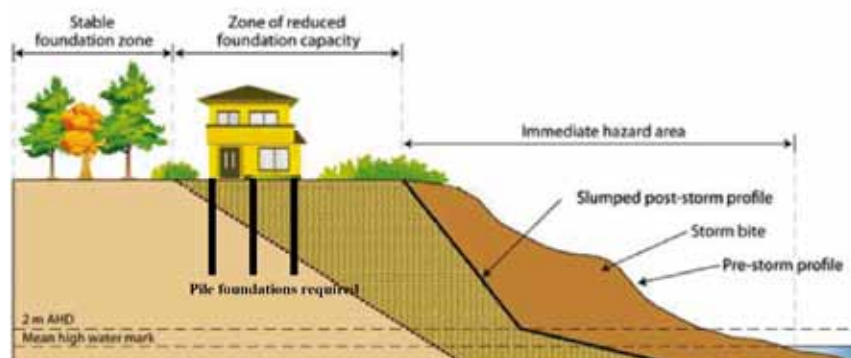
The controls are outlined in Council's draft interim policy - Areas of Coastal Management.

[Development in areas of coastal instability](http://goo.gl/bgOF6R)
- <http://goo.gl/bgOF6R>

A 1970S STORM CAN HAPPEN AGAIN AT ANY TIME RESULTING IN LARGE AMOUNTS OF SAND BEING TAKEN FROM THE BEACH.



Shoalhaven Heads Surf Club circa 1977



All four hazard lines represent the landward edge of the Zone of Reduced Foundation Capacity (ZRFC), which migrates landward reflecting the erosive impacts of coastal hazards and a receding shoreline. Over time more public and private assets, not designed for these conditions, are affected.

How is Council managing coastal risk?

By gathering the best available information...

In order to prepare appropriate risk management strategies, Council has been undertaking studies to identify and quantify coastal hazards since 2004.

Since 2012, Council has also been acting on recommendations in the draft CZMP by undertaking

- Hazard studies
- Beach erosion monitoring
- Detailed designs for long term protection.

The most recent report, which reviews and discusses options for long term protection, is the Draft Shoalhaven 'Authorised Locations' Coastal Erosion Remediation Options (Royal Haskoning 2013). It applies to Mollymook, Collingwood and Currarong Beaches and Callala Bay and Callala Beach.

Note: The options explored in the Royal Haskoning report are for consideration and discussion only.

Council has engaged Royal Haskoning to also prepare a city wide coastal erosion remediation strategy. This project is funded jointly by SCC and OEH.

By developing a regional sea level rise policy...

South Coast Regional Sea-Level Rise Planning and Policy Response Framework

The NSW Government is currently working through Stage 2 Coastal Reforms to improve implementation outcomes for CZM. Until this process is complete, the State Government has placed a moratorium on the certification and gazettal of all CZMPs, which is why Shoalhaven's CZMP is still in draft form.

As mentioned, Stage One Reforms withdrew the state-wide sea level rise benchmarks so Eurobodalla Shire Council and Shoalhaven City Council, in partnership with OEH, are currently working together to develop a Regional Sea Level Rise Planning and Policy Response Framework.

The aims of the project are to develop:

- regionally relevant sea level rise projections under conditions of climate change; and
- a risk assessment and policy response framework addressing future sea level rise.

The next edition of Frontline News will explain this in more detail.

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