



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Shire doing this project?

The coastline is constantly changing from storm events, sea level rise and the changes that people make to the coastline (buildings, hard coastal structures and dune/beach changes). As the coastline begins to change, it can impact the infrastructure (for example footpaths, roads, houses, beach access, services etc) in the 'coastal zone' and how the coast can be used.

The Hopetoun region has been identified as an 'erosion hotspot'. An erosion hotspot is a location that has been identified by the state government where coastal erosion is expected to impact on public and private physical assets within 25 years. As a result, it is considered a priority for coastal hazard assessment and management planning.

This project will help the Shire to understand 'coastal hazards' and 'risks' that may impact the coastline in the future and what the options are for managing those. This is being done through the preparation of a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP).

What is a CHRMAP?

A CHRMAP is the study prepared to communicate information about future coastal planning. It includes a technical assessment to understand the coastal processes and social assessment to understand the community values and financial and environmental implications.

The State government's Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning Guidelines (July 2019) provide guidance for decision makers to develop and implement effective CHRMAPs. You can view these guidelines [here](#).

The key components of a CHRMAP are:

- i Understanding the local environment and community values
- i Assessing how much things can cope with the impact of climate change
- i Identifying the risks (likelihood of an event occurring and the consequences of that event occurring)
- i Analysing the findings and evaluating the management options
- i Identifying the adaptation options
- i Identifying funding options, monitoring and review of frameworks

The CHRMAP will estimate where the coastline will be located in the short, medium and long-term future.

By understanding where the coastline will be in the future, it allows us to understand what infrastructure may be impacted by coastal processes and investigate which options for managing these impacts might be appropriate in certain areas.

What options are there for managing coastal risks?

There are four main adaptation (adjustments that can be made) options for managing coastal risk.

- ï Avoid – not allowing new development in areas identified to be affected by coastal hazards.
- ï Planned or managed retreat – relocating or removing things which may be at intolerable risk of damage from coastal hazards.
- ï Accommodate – design measures and/or management strategies that make the risks from coastal hazards more acceptable.
- ï Protect – works that will preserve the foreshore reserve, public access, public safety and significant property and infrastructure.

Different options are appropriate for different locations taking into consideration the type of coastline, community values, environmental impacts and cost implications.

Specific descriptions of these options can be found in the [Coastal Hazard Management Guidelines – July 2019](#), page 59-72

How will the CHRMAP impact my property?

The CHRMAP will identify the areas that are at risk of being impacted by coastal hazards and when they are likely to occur. The CHRMAP will make recommendations on the appropriate adaptation options for different areas.

The impact on your individual property depends on where it is located as the hazards and risks vary throughout the coastline, which has been assessed as part of Stage 5 of the project (see timelines on the main web page).

During the assessment the Shire has identified assets within Hopetoun that may be subject to coastal erosion and inundation over the next 100 years.

The hazard maps for [erosion](#) and [inundation](#), and the map showing the [assets at risk](#) over the 100-year time frame can be found at each of the links.

The coast was divided in three management units to facilitate the study.

MU1: Western Beach

MU2: Town Beach and Boat Ramp

MU3: Esplanade Beach



How long will the project take?

The project will be undertaken in eight stages, identified in the 'Project Timeframes' section.

It is anticipated that the project will be complete in late 2023. Any changes to the timeframes will be updated on this page.

CHRMAPs contain a lot of jargon which is hard to understand. How can I find out what these words mean?

CHRMAPs do contain a lot of technical terms which can be difficult to understand. Some of the common terms we will use throughout this project can be understood by viewing State Planning Policy 2.6 - Coastal Planning, [here](#).

Commonly used terms include:

- i 'coastal hazard' means the consequence of coastal processes that affect the environment and safety of people. Potential coastal hazards include erosion, accretion and inundation
- i 'coastal zone' includes the areas of water and land that may be influenced by coastal processes.
- i 'erosion' – refers to shoreline movement where the shoreline shifts landward reducing the width of a coastal foreshore reserve and/or the distance to a fixed feature on the adjoining land.
- i 'inundation' - means the flow of water onto previously dry land. It may either be permanent (for example due to sea level rise) or a temporary occurrence during a storm event.
- i 'risk' is specified in terms of a hazardous event or circumstances and the consequence that may flow from it. Risk is measured in terms of a combination of the likelihood of an event occurring and the consequence of that event occurring.

How can I get involved in the project?

To reach this stage the project team has used the outcomes from the previous engagement and technical assessments. To make sure we understood your values accurately, we need to understand your thoughts on the adaptation options that are suitable to the area and reflect the values that you told us previously.

A brief survey link is included below and is open from Friday 16 June 2023 to Friday 14 July 2023. The information from the survey will be used to complete the adaptation plan to enable the Shire to plan for the future of coastal hazards over both the short and long term. It is recommended that you refer to the hazard maps and assets at risk whilst you are responding to the survey.

To complete the survey [click here](#).

If you require a hard copy survey, please contact Shire's project manager, Natalie Bell on (08) 9839 0000 or pm@ravensthorpe.wa.gov.au

The final engagement opportunity for this project will be commenting on the draft CHRMAP – scheduled for later in 2023. Information will be made available on this webpage.

It should be noted that there are ongoing technical assessments underway, including geotechnical investigations, which may result in lower levels of vulnerability along the coast than currently predicted. These are being undertaken to ensure coastal hazard planning uses to most up-to-date information, and reflects the Shire's commitment to a safety and risk management approach that continues to allow for use and enjoyment of the coastline until such time as impacts are experienced.

Can I register my interest to be kept up to date?

You can register your interest in being kept up to date with the project by completing the attached survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HopetounCHRMAP>.