

# COASTAL HAZARD ADAPTATION STRATEGY

## What does a CHAS involve?

### COASTAL ADAPTATION PLANNING

Many coastal communities currently face **coastal erosion and inundation risks**. It is also anticipated that projected sea level rise and more intense storms from a changing climate may increase and extend these risks to areas currently at low or no risk. These effects have the potential to significantly impact the livelihoods and lifestyles of coastal residents and the natural environment.

Decisions and actions that help to prepare for the adverse consequences of a changing climate, as well as taking advantage of the opportunities, are known as **climate adaptation**.

To assist in understanding and adapting to variations in climate Bundaberg Regional Council is developing a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS) for the entire coastline of our area. The CHAS will look at hazards such as coastal erosion, storm tide inundation and sea level rise and the potential impacts on the community, infrastructure and the environment.

More specifically the CHAS will:

- Identify coastal hazard areas
- Understand the vulnerabilities and risks to communities, infrastructure and the environment
- Engage with the community to understand their preferred approach to adaptation
- Develop costs, priorities and time frames for implementation of adaptation options

### HOW MAY A CHANGING CLIMATE EFFECT THE COAST?

*Climate changes on all timescales from **short-term fluctuations**, such as El Niño events, through to **glacial-interglacial fluctuations** lasting many thousands of years. Humans, and the environment in which we live, have adapted to these changes.*

Current projections for Queensland's coastline by 2100 are:

- Projected sea level rise of 0.8 m
- Tropical cyclones are predicted to become less frequent but those that do occur are expected to be more intense

The likely impacts associated with these changes mean that rising sea levels combined with storm tides are likely to cause accelerated erosion and increased risk of inundation which we need to better understand.

PO Box 3130  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670  
T 1300 883 699 F 07 4150 5410  
E [ourcoast@bundaberg.qld.gov.au](mailto:ourcoast@bundaberg.qld.gov.au)  
W [bundaberg.qld.gov.au](http://bundaberg.qld.gov.au)

**Bundaberg Our Coast**  
[ourcoast.bundaberg.qld.gov.au](http://ourcoast.bundaberg.qld.gov.au)