

# Media Release

Date: Monday, June 4, 2018

## Applications extended for coastal strategy team nominations

Residents across the Bundaberg Region living at or near the coastline are being asked to share their stories and experience to develop a plan for its future protection.

Council and the Queensland Government are combining to develop a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS) and are inviting interested residents to contribute their knowledge and enthusiasm as part of a Community Reference Group (CRG).

Applications to join the CRG have now been extended to 4pm, Monday, June 11.

Environment and Natural Resources spokesman Cr Bill Trevor said the coastline across the Bundaberg Region is diverse but the effects of erosion, storm tide inundation and sea level rises are occurrences that will have a future impact on our coastline as we know it.

“Council has been funded to almost half a million dollars to develop a strategy that will define an action plan to mitigate these anticipated future coastal impacts.

“In reality we are just now dipping our toes in the water to address these natural phenomenon. Currently a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) is being developed for Woodgate.

“The SEMP will provide information that will inform the CHAS. The difference between the two studies is that the SEMP is localised while the CHAS explores a much bigger picture.

Cr Trevor said putting together a Community Reference Group was a vital step in developing the CHAS.

“No one knows their stretch of coastline like the people who either live there or are absolute devotees of beachside interaction. We need people who want to assist through shared knowledge and passion and I can assure everyone that every piece of information is vital in building the clear picture needed for a future course of action.

“Ideally, the CRG should comprise representatives from a diverse range of locations from Woodgate, Elliott Heads, Bargara, Moore Park, Miara, Boaga and all places in between.

“With sea levels expected to rise by around 0.8 of a metre by 2100 it is imperative that we develop strategies to protect one of our most beautiful assets that not only enables a magnificent lifestyle but is also one of our key economic drivers.”

For further information including nomination forms for the CRG contact Council on 1300 883 699 or visit Councils website [ourcoast.bundaberg.qld.gov.au](http://ourcoast.bundaberg.qld.gov.au) to download relevant forms.

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