

COASTAL HAZARDS

INFORMATION SHEET

Residents and visitors to Livingstone Shire enjoy the beautiful beaches and ocean of the Capricorn Coast. Our coastline is one of the things people love most about Livingstone Shire, however there are dangers associated with the coast that everyone should be aware of.

Understanding these hazards, and the ways we can adapt to ensure our family, property, and community stay safe, is essential for everyone who spends time at the beach.

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS AFFECTING OUR COAST NOW?

Our coastal areas are dynamic places that have been formed over a long time by natural processes, such as wave and wind action, ocean tides, and currents. These coastal processes are referred to as hazards when they have the potential to impact buildings, community infrastructure, places of cultural importance, or our natural areas. Livingstone Shire's coastal areas are exposed to storm tide inundation and coastal erosion.

These hazards can occur as part of an extreme weather event (such as a cyclone or severe storm) or more slowly over time due to wind and wave action. The extent of land potentially impacted by coastal hazards, as well as the consequences of these hazards, are expected to increase in the future.

Natural coastal processes, whether occurring daily or from extreme weather events, have always shaped our coast. Coastal hazards and their impacts - experienced past and present - will continue to be part of living on the coast.

WHAT HAZARDS WILL IMPACT US IN THE FUTURE?

Coastal hazards already impact Livingstone Shire residents and places, including through erosion, damage to buildings and private properties, narrowing of beaches and loss of sand, limiting access to beaches, loss of coastal vegetation and natural habitat, degraded natural systems adjoining our

beaches, dune erosion, damage to roads and major infrastructure, and isolation due to storm surge.

As part of developing the *Our Living Coast Strategy*, an analysis of our future coastal risk was undertaken. This analysis showed that in the future:

- More of our beaches, public and community infrastructure, and places that matter most will be at very high risk of erosion because this is the most prevalent coastal hazard affecting our coast, and our communities are clustered along the coastline.
- Sea level rise by itself presents a lower risk to our special places because its impacts are gradual and experienced over time, and

is mostly confined to places close to estuaries. Sea level rise will, however, enhance the impacts of coastal erosion and inundation over time.

- Storm tide inundation will not present as high a risk over time because these events are infrequent and temporary.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

One of the best lines of defence to protect our coastal communities from coastal hazard impacts is our natural environment: a wide beach, healthy dunes, coastal vegetation, and intact habitats. The natural environment provides a protective buffer, and is highly valued by the community and visitors alike. To support our natural coastal environment:

- Take care when you visit the beach by cleaning up after yourself, looking after sand dunes and vegetation, driving sensibly, and looking out for animals; and
- Join in a tree planting or community clean up event - keep an eye on Council's website for details.

It is also important that you and your family are prepared for an emergency or disaster.



Head to Council's disaster management website for more information:
<https://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/our-council/disaster-and-emergency>.

MORE INFORMATION

Council has information on our coast, catchments, and the wider environment available online at <https://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/living-here/my-environment>.

You can also contact Council directly for more information:

Email: NRM@livingstone.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 4913 5000

