



Australia's approach to coastal adaptation planning

what can we learn from each other?

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5 things Australia has done well

4 things Australia has done poorly

4 reasons why

5 ways to improve



5 things done well

1. Increasing quality of information base



5 things done well

- 1. Increasing quality of information base**
- 2. Some good policies, Guidelines and toolkits for local (municipal) government: SA Local Government Association, Western Australia, Victoria**

Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (Victoria)

Sect7 The objectives for planning & management of marine and coastal environment

(a) to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment; &

(b) to promote the resilience of ecosystems, communities and assets to climate change; &

(c) to respect natural processes in planning for and managing current and future risks to people and assets from coastal hazards and climate change; ...

Eurobodalla Interim Coastal Hazard Adaptation Code

Planning periods for considering the building life of a development:

- Residential development
 - maximum fifty (50) years (2065)
- Commercial development
 - fifty (50) years , but may be assessed higher on merit
- Major infrastructure and new land releases –
 - Maximum Strategic (2100 to 2100+)

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3. Coastal protection technologies



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4. Some excellent community engagement/consultation processes

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5. Courts *generally* recognising inter-generational equity, precaution and future liability

To prevent new developments...

- ¶40 “ ... It is no longer sufficient to rely only on what has gone before, to assess what may happen again ...
- ...rising sea levels are to be expected. The range of impacts may well be beyond the predictive capability of current assessment techniques.
- In the face of such evidence, a course of action is warranted to prevent irreversible or severe harm...There is a longer term risk of intergenerational liability that should be avoided
- (*Gippsland Coastal Board v South Gippsland Shire Council*)

...and to prevent protection of existing structures

Belongil residents' bid to repair sea walls rejected



<https://bay/74> The Land and Environment Court has rejected a bid by three Belongil residents to repair the sea walls in front of their beachfront homes. Photo Chris Dobney



4 things being done poorly

1. Policy coherence and consistency



4 things being done poorly

1. Policy coherence and consistency
2. Protection of public interest
environmental values



In an
Emergency
phone
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**Beach access temporarily CLOSED
due to coastal erosion**

-  Don't stand on the top, or at the base, of eroded dunes
-  Don't climb or dig furrows into the dunes
-  Watch for waves overtopping dunes
-  Watch the tide
-  Stay away from unstable structures

 Check the Bureau of Meteorology for current weather warnings at www.bom.gov.au

 Check beach conditions before entering the water at www.beachwatch.org.au - swim at a patrolled beach when available

By Order Local Government Act 1993 Section 632
The General Manager Byron Shire Council





4 things being done poorly

1. Policy coherence and consistency
2. Protection of public interest
environmental values
3. Implementation

4 things being done poorly

1. Policy coherence and consistency
2. Protection of public interest
environmental values
3. Implementation
4. Using public information to promote
autonomous adaptation



Sea Level Rise in Gosford



http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sites/default/files/GIS_tim_macdonald.pdf



4 reasons for slow progress

1. Federal arrangements and limited power of local government
2. Law privileges private property rights
3. Interest groups and the nature of the values affected by climate change
4. Local government preoccupation with liability and legal risk



5 Things to do better

1. Articulate long-term vision, through laws, policies and plans
2. Ensure representation of public interest environmental values in decision-making
3. Expect and *enable* shift to private adaptation



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3. Expect and *enable* shift to private adaptation
4. Post-event opportunism
5. Framework for allocating cost

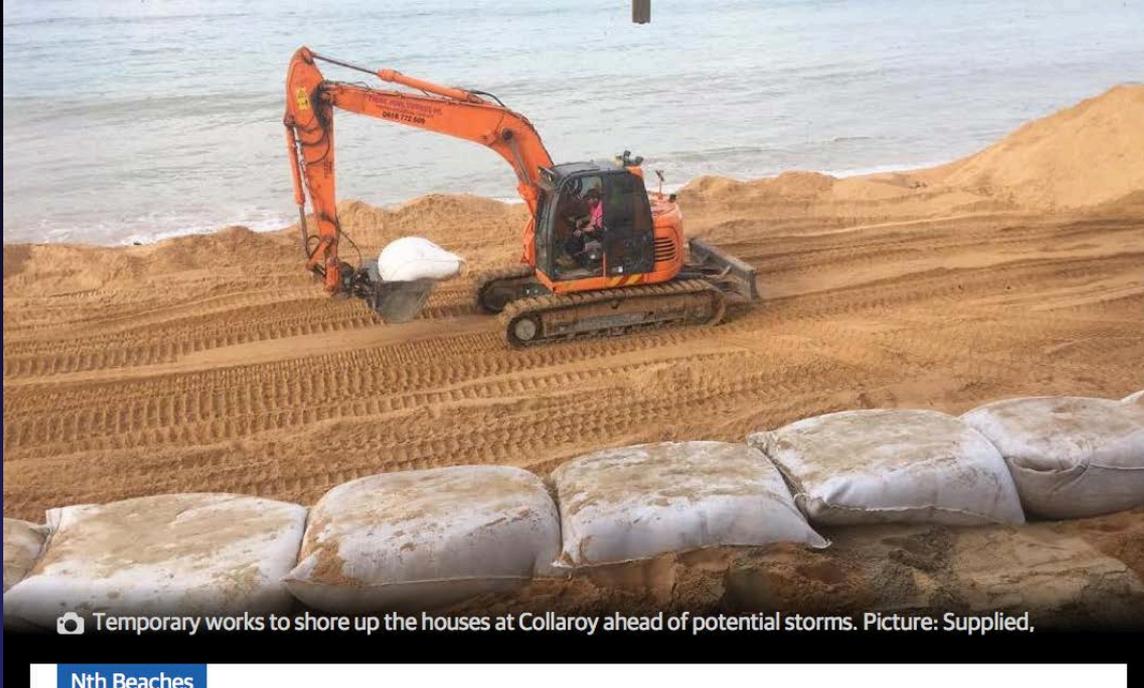


Drone Footage taken over Collaroy. Photo: UNSW Water Research Laboratory



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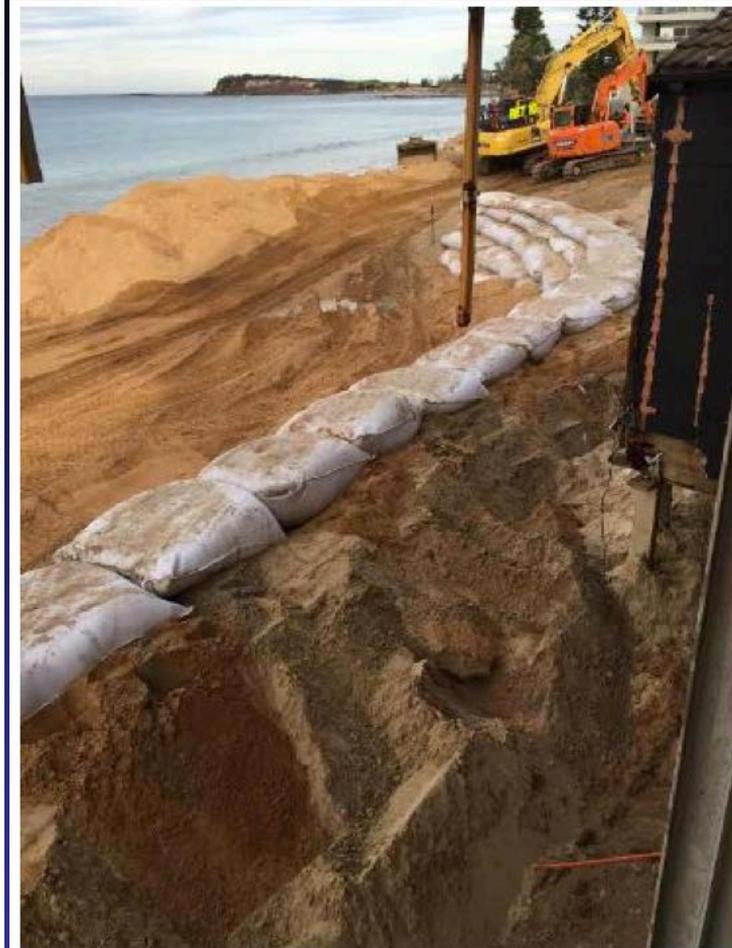
Temporary works to shore up the houses at Collaroy ahead of potential storms. Picture: Supplied.

Nth Beaches

Collaroy storm: temporary seawall almost complete in front of damaged homes

Robbie Patterson, Manly Daily
July 5, 2016 5:03pm

A TEMPORARY seawall being put in place to prevent further damage to a row of Collaroy houses is nearing completion.



Temporary works to shore up the houses at Collaroy ahead of possible storms.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/northern-beaches/collaroy-storm-temporary-seawall-almost-complete-in-front-of-damaged-homes/news-story/69834c1ec4e930d52ee2a4bc66c1d1b1>

Precedent: Collaroy residents to get state subsidy for sea walls

By Julie Power

March 31, 2019 – 12.00am



The massive storm of June 2016 shrank Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach - the most prone to erosion of any NSW beach - by 50 metres, damaged properties and toppled a beachside pool into the waves.

It did that in a weekend. But residents' plea for state and council funding to build a massive sea wall to protect their properties from future storms took nearly three years before it finally materialised this week.

The funding package is expected to set a precedent for coastal communities at risk from rising sea levels and more intense storms caused by climate change.





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What can we learn from each other?



- Protection will continue in high-value areas
- Agreement on priorities
- Backed up by strong legal framework & \$\$\$
- Commitment to implement
- Start with market-based approaches
- Accommodation - embrace the flood!