



Coastal Protection

The City of Busselton is a well known and highly regarded lifestyle and tourism destination. To maintain the high recreational and environmental value of the coast and to protect public infrastructure, works are required to mitigate against coastal erosion, coastal flooding, environmental degradation and loss of the tourism value of the coast. Protecting the coast will become progressively more difficult with time due to predicted sea level rise, as a result of climate change.

Both the City's most recent Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) and more recent modelling undertaken with expert coastal engineers have been used to identify the locations most vulnerable to flooding and storm surge impacts along the coast. It has been identified in the City's CHRMAP that it is cheaper to protect existing infrastructure and private property than to relocate or rebuild, so the City is planning to undertake works to protect and mitigate against the risks as much as possible.

However, ongoing protection of the coastline cannot be funded by the City alone and will require time, funding and the ability to deliver projects. The City requires significant funding for coastal adaptation works along the whole coastline, with an immediate focus on Geographe Bay. Busselton has been recognised as a high risk location for coastal inundation by the Department of Transport so this is increasingly more urgent.

The City clearly cannot afford to deal with coastal inundation without State and Federal funding. The City recently received \$3.5 mill of Federal funding from the Preparing Australian Communities Program – Local Stream Grant Opportunity which was matched by the City to provide an overall allocation of \$7 million to monitor tidal activity and to plan and deliver works to mitigate coastal flooding. These works were delivered at a number of priority sites along the Geographe Bay coastline in 2024-2025, with some further works planned for 2025-2026, but this will only assist to strengthen some parts of the City's coastal infrastructure in a few priority areas and will not provide the full protection required.

The City requires ongoing additional funding to be able to continue to defend the coast and infrastructure within the city into the future.

For further information visit:
www.busselton.wa.gov.au/coastal-management

