

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS REPORT

Gingin Dandaragan Coastal Partnership: Coastal Hazard Risk Management Project

Prepared by Coastal Focus for the
Shire of Dandaragan, Shire of Gingin and the
Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC)

July 2014

Community Information Sessions Report

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Prepared for:

Shire of Dandaragan, Shire of Gingin and the NACC.

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Disclaimer:

Coastal Focus has prepared this document for the use of the Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin and the NACC. Coastal Focus undertakes no duty to or accepts any responsibility to any third party. The report is based on generally accepted practices and standards at the time it was prepared. The methodology adopted and sources of information used by Coastal Focus are outlined in this report. This document should be properly cited and acknowledged.

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1. Introduction

The Shire of Gingin and the Shire of Dandaragan recently held two community information sessions to raise community awareness about the Gingin Dandaragan Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP) project. This project is currently being undertaken by the Shire of Dandaragan and the Shire of Gingin, together with the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC). These information sessions were largely funded by NACC's Coastal Devolved Grants program. The aim of this Report is to discuss whether these community information sessions were effective in raising community awareness about the CHRMAP project.

2. Objectives

The information sessions aimed to increase community knowledge of the:

- a) Low lying sandy nature of the Gingin Dandaragan coastline;
- b) Coastal processes (winds, currents, waves, tides, sea levels, etc) that influence the coastline and the coastal hazards that can result from these changing processes such as coastal recession and coastal inundation;
- c) Diversity of man-made and natural assets located along the coastline and the range of services that these assets provide to the community;
- d) Coastal planning requirements as per the recently endorsed State Planning Policy 2.6 (Coastal Planning Policy) and other coastal planning policy initiatives;
- e) Potential legal issues related to coastal hazard risk if left unaddressed;
- f) Key steps being undertaken as part of the Gingin Dandaragan CHRMAP project, achievements to date and next steps.
- g) The range of available adaptation options that will be considered during the Adaptation Planning phase (avoid, accommodate, managed realignment (retreat), soft protection, hard protection) as well as the potential costs and challenges associated with these options; and,
- h) Opportunities for future involvement in the project, such as the adaptation planning phase and community beach monitoring.

3. Methods

Methods implemented for achieving the Objectives of these sessions:

- a) Information sessions were advertised for one month before the events through local community newspapers, Shire newsletters, on Shire websites, through NACC Notes and Facebook, ABC radio, the local NACC NRM officer, and local community group networks (see *Appendix One: Promotional Material*);
- b) Information sessions were held on June 10th (Jurien Bay) and June 11th (Guilderton);
- c) The two hour sessions covered each topic that is outlined in Section 2: Objectives;
- d) Information sessions were opened by the respective Shire presidents;
- e) Presenters included Ashley Robb (project summary and update), Chiara Danese (coastal science, the project's technical background and coastal adaptation planning) and Dr. Garry Middle (WA Coastal Planning Policy);
- f) Feedback forms were completed by session participants at the end of the session;
- g) Participants were encouraged to stay after the session for finger food and to discuss the session topics with the presenters, shire staff and Councilors, and with each other.



Figure One (above): Community information session at Jurien Bay (Council Chambers), presenter Dr. Garry Middle.



Figure Two (above): Community information session at Guilderton (Country Club), presenter Ashley Robb.

4. Outcomes

Outcomes of the Jurien Bay session (in the Shire of Dandaragan) include:

- a) A two hour information session at the Council Chambers in Jurien Bay on Tuesday June 10th from 4:30pm to 6:30pm;
- b) 20 people attended this session, plus presenters;
- c) Participants at this session included staff from the Department of Planning, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Shire and Councillors, as well as community group representatives and the broader community;
- d) Most participants stayed after the session to discuss the topics over finger food;
- e) Increases in participant knowledge levels on the following topics are as per Table One (below).

	Topic	Change
i.	Coastal processes that influence the coastline	+30%
ii.	The process required for undertaking coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning	+50%
iii.	Local government coastal planning requirements as per the WA State Coastal Planning Policy	+49%
iv.	Key steps of the Gingin Dandaragan project, achievements to date and next steps	+64%
v.	The range of adaptation options available to mitigate coastal hazard risks	+49%

Table One (above): participant knowledge level outcomes from the Jurien Bay session. Source: Feedback Report compiled by NACC's Social Science Research Officer, July 2014.

Outcomes of the Guilderton session (in the Shire of Gingin) include:

- a) One two hour information session at the Guilderton Country Club on Wednesday June 11th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm;
- b) 23 people attended this session, plus presenters;
- c) Participants at this session included staff from local real estate agencies, the City of Wanneroo, the City of Cockburn, the Cockburn Sound Coastal Alliance, the Shire and Councillors, as well as community group representatives and the broader community;
- d) Most participants stayed on after the session to discuss the topics over finger food;
- e) Increases in participant knowledge levels on the following topics are as per Table Two (below).

	Topic	Change
vi.	Coastal processes that influence the coastline	+21%
vii.	The process required for undertaking coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning	+55%
viii.	Local government coastal planning requirements as per the WA State Coastal Planning Policy	+67%
ix.	Key steps of the Gingin Dandaragan project, achievements to date and next steps	+73%
x.	The range of adaptation options available to mitigate coastal hazard risks	+39%

Table Two (above): participant knowledge level outcomes from the Guilderton session. Source: Feedback Report compiled by NACC's Social Science Research Officer, July 2014.

Note: Presentations and Feedback Reports are available separately as PDF files. Contact NACC or Coastal Focus for further information.


5. Conclusion

In July 2013 the Shires and NACC held a coastal hazard risk management workshop in Ledge Point to discuss the required steps for undertaking CHRMAP. A representative of each ratepayer association and Coastcare group along the Gingin Dandaragan coastline was invited to and attended the workshop along with a range of government agency and university representatives. The two information sessions held in June 2014 continued the meaningful involvement of local community in the Gingin Dandaragan CHRMAP project. This was demonstrated by attendance at each session of over 20 people from a range of community groups and organisations, and notable participant knowledge level increases in all topics discussed at the sessions.

Appendix One: Promotional Material

COASTAL HAZARDS

Planning for the future



WHEN
June 11th, 2014
5:30pm – 7:30pm

WHERE
Guilderton Country
Club

Wedge Street, Guilderton, WA

PRESENTED BY • Garry Middle (Urban & Regional Planner / WAPC) • Chiara Danese (PhD Coastal Hazard Planning) • Ashley Robb (Gingin Dandaragan Coastal Partnership)

RSVP to: Cher Groves, phone 9575 2211 extension 138 or eso@gingin.wa.gov.au



**COMMUNITY
INFORMATION
SESSION**

**WHY
COASTAL
HAZARDS?**

The Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin are working together with NACC to prepare communities from Guilderton to Jurien Bay for the potential impacts of sea level increases, coastal erosion and inundation. What has the project achieved so far and what are the next steps?

TOPICS...

- Coastal processes
- Coastal planning requirements
- Options for adapting to coastal change
- Community involvement






Figure Three (above): Community information session flyer used to promote the Guilderton session.

MEDIA RELEASE

(For Regional Publications)

Shires to host community information sessions on coastal planning

6 May 2014

The Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin are holding two information sessions in June that will provide an opportunity for the community to learn about coastal hazard planning, which is currently being undertaken to help prepare communities from Guilderton to Jurien Bay for the potential impacts of coastal inundation and long term erosion.

The two community information sessions will be held in Jurien Bay and Guilderton and continue a commitment from the Shires to engage the community and other key stakeholders in a coastal hazard planning process that is being undertaken by the Shires together with the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC).

The sessions will discuss topics such as coastal hazards and risks, man-made and natural coastal assets, coastal processes, coastal planning requirements, options for adapting to coastal change, and opportunities for community involvement throughout the process. The sessions will also provide opportunities for the community to chat with coastal specialists and Shire staff.

Shire of Gingin CEO Jeremy Edwards said that the partner organisations have aimed to involve the community early on in the coastal hazard planning process and will continue to do so at key stages throughout the process.

"In 2013 the Shires and NACC hosted a workshop in Ledge Point that brought together Shire staff, Councillors, government agencies and coastal specialists to discuss the requirements of coastal hazard planning," said Mr Edwards. "Representatives from a range of community groups were invited to and attended this workshop and their input was invaluable. These sessions now provide an opportunity for the broader community to learn about the coastal hazard planning process, what has been achieved so far, and what the next steps will be."

Shire of Dandaragan CEO Tony Nottle said that by working through the coastal hazard planning process, the Shires are taking an integrated, informed and measured approach to better understand appropriate locations for the future placement of coastal infrastructure.

"Last year the Shires responded to State government studies and changes to the Coastal Planning Policy by partnering with NACC to undertake the first steps of the coastal hazard planning process," said Mr Nottle. "The Shires and NACC have since been successful in applying for State government funding to undertake further steps in this planning process and these information sessions are an important part of keeping the community involved as we progress."

The sessions have been funded by the Australian Government through NACC's Coastal Devolved Grants program and will be hosted by former NACC Coastal and Marine Program Coordinators Ashley Robb and Chiara Danese, and WAPC panel member and former head of Urban and Regional Planning at Curtin University, Dr Garry Middle.

The Jurien Bay session will be held at 4:30pm on Tuesday June 10th at the Jurien Bay Council Chambers. To RSVP for the Jurien Bay session contact Denaye Kerr: denayekerr@dandaragan.wa.gov.au or phone 9652 0800.

The Guilderton session will be held at 5:30pm at the Guilderton Country Club on Wednesday June 11th. To RSVP for the Guilderton session contact Cher Groves eso@gingin.wa.gov.au or phone 9575 2211, extension 138.

For more information contact Ashley Robb (Gingin Dandaragan Coastal Partnership) on 0439 400 107.

Released with the support and approval of:



Figure Four (above): Media release used to promote the community information sessions.

End Document