

Gingin Dandaragan Coastal Hazard Risk Management Workshop

Summary Report

January 2014



This document was prepared for the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, the Shire of Gingin and the Shire of Dandaragan, by Coastal Focus.



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Acknowledgments: Coastal Focus would like to acknowledge the following people for the information and advice provided in the preparation of this document:

- Ashley Robb
- Dr. Deborah Kennedy
- Peter Mackay
- Mark Canny
- Doug Vickery
- Hana Jestrubek



Cover photos: courtesy of NACC.



Executive Summary

The coastal zone is a dynamic environment that presents a complex challenge for institutions involved in its management. Appropriate short and long term actions need to be established for the effective management of the coastal zone in the face of changing coastal processes, such as rising sea levels, in order to preserve the wide range of assets (and values) that are bound to be impacted. A range of policies and guidelines exist to support local governments to assess risks from changing coastal processes and to identify strategies for managing these in consultation with the community. Local governments (and proponents) are now encouraged to follow the *Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning* (CHRMAP) process to assess risks to coastal assets and identify appropriate risk mitigation options (WAPC 2013). The CHRMAP is a standardised process developed for dealing with risk in the coastal zone recommended in the *State Planning Policy 2.6 State Coastal Planning Policy* (WAPC 2013).

In recognition of this, the Shire of Dandaragan, Shire of Gingin and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) are in the process of formalising a partnership to collaboratively prepare and adapt to the future impacts of coastal processes and hazards along the *Hill Primary Coastal Compartment*.

The Gingin and Dandaragan partnership recognises the benefits of integrated approaches to coastal planning and management as outlined in the *National Cooperative Approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management - Framework and Implementation Plan* (Department of

Environment and Heritage 2006). Such partnerships are an effective way of maximising limited resources, developing networks across large stretches of coastline, sharing and increasing knowledge between a range of stakeholders, developing consistent policies for landholders and developers, and ultimately ensuring the integration of science and best available information into coastal planning and management responses to coastal recession and inundation.

The first step of the Gingin Dandaragan process was to commission a data and information gap analysis for the study area. The *Hill Primary Coastal Compartment Information & Data Gap Analysis Report* (Danese 2013) was completed in July 2013 and a summary of its recommendations is included in Appendix G of this document. This phase also included a workshop to share the findings of the gap analysis with a number of stakeholder and community representatives. The Gingin-Dandaragan Coastal Hazard and Risk Assessment Workshop was held at Ledge Point on 17 June 2013.

The aim of the workshop was to bring together representatives from a range of organisations and community groups to discuss the risks that coastal communities face as a result of sea level increases, warming ocean temperatures, and other coastal processes. The workshop also discussed approaches for managing and adapting to these risks.

The workshop discussed:

- coastal hazard risk assessments as tools for reducing risk to coastal assets
- coastal processes and hazards affecting the Hill Primary Coastal Compartment
- required next steps for the Hill Primary Coastal Compartment
- methods for strengthening multi-agency partnerships; and
- potential networks and resources available for supporting next steps.

The recommendations in this Document, if implemented, will help the two Shires form a governance and communication framework that will support the implementation of recommendations made in the *Data and Information Gap Analysis* for undertaking coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning across the Hill Primary Coastal Compartment.

Funding for this workshop was provided by Caring for Our Country through the NACC. Community feedback was recorded on forms and distributed at the end of the workshop. A total of 38 participants attended the workshop. Participation was by invitation (see Appendix D for the list of attendees).

The workshop was divided into eight sessions (Appendix E). Each session began with a presentation followed by questions from the floor. The presenter responded to questions supported by a representation of specialists in coastal processes, coastal adaptation and planning and coastal engineering. **Session I** was a presentation on the CHRMAP and its applications at the regional level. **Session II** was a presentation on coastal assets that

could be at threat from hazards and what value these assets provide to the community. **Session III** was a presentation on coastal hazards and processes relevant to the Hill Primary Coastal Compartment. An open room discussion followed. **Session IV** provided information about the key data sets necessary for understanding coastal processes at the local and regional scale. **Session V** aimed to inform participants about the availability of funding opportunities and technical support for data collection and hazard management through the Department of Transport. **Session VI** was a presentation on planning requirements and legal implications for local governments. **Session VII** aimed to identify ways to effectively inform internal staff, Councillors and the community throughout the CHRMAP process. **Session VIII** provided information regarding options for managing immediate coastal hazards of erosion and inundation.

Key concerns raised at the workshop included:

- immediate coastal risk and how this project will help address these challenges
- accuracy of modelling and coastal data sets
- who is responsible for undertaking CHRMAP
- impacts of off-road vehicles and urban development along already vulnerable coastal areas; and
- Liability of Councillors and councils.

Table 1 summarises the recommendations and steps to move the project and partnership forward based on the author's experience in CHRMAP projects and her case study PhD research findings.

Table 1: Recommendations and Key Steps

1.	Identify lead officer(s) in each local government and partner organisations to provide the necessary internal follow up.
2.	Disseminate the gap analysis and workshop summary reports internally to key staff and elective members via presentations.
3.	Each local government to explore how the outcomes of the CHRMAP are likely to be incorporated into strategic and statutory planning, environmental and engineering strategies, policies and plans, including coastal management plans. This should be undertaken prior to the formalization of the partnership (step 4).
4.	Joint meetings to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Formalise a collaborative partnership▪ Develop a Memorandum of Understanding▪ Discuss common goals, key gaps, indicative of possible shared actions and ways of resourcing the actions (internal and external resources and funding opportunities) in particular discuss the resourcing of a project coordinator to assist with coastal planning and engineering matters; and▪ Establish key responsibilities (e.g. monthly meetings to monitor progress of the CHRMAP).
5.	Develop a series of support and guiding documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Funding Agreement▪ Communication Strategy▪ Project Coordinator duty statement; and▪ Project Plan.
6.	Develop a community and stakeholder engagement strategy which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Disseminate information on the Gingin Dandaragan Coastal Partnership and CHRMAP to external stakeholders including the community. Potential communication channels include:▪ A website. Community and stakeholder groups can be referred to this site to learn more about the project and the project's scientific and policy framework (see the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership website http://www.escp.org.uk)▪ Regular Community Forums▪ Scientific forums - agency and university can contribute to, and be informed about, the partnership's work to ensure latest science and knowledge is integrated into the project and to foster the development of key networks; and▪ Regular communication and networking forums with coordinators from other coastal collaborations, such as the Peron Naturaliste Partnership and the Cockburn Sound Coastal Alliance (CSCA), as well as the Australian Coastal Society (ACS). This will ensure that learnings from regional collaborations external to the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) will be integrated into this process.
7.	While undertaking the risk assessment it is recommended to seek advice on the legal implications associated with communicating this information to community and stakeholders. Legal advice provided to other local governments is available through PNP and CSCA.
8.	Review the Gap Analysis Recommendations and identify funding opportunities and timeframes for implementing these recommendations.