

Mayor Mark Jamieson
Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Locked Bag 72, Sunshine Coast Mail Centre QLD, 4560

RE: SUNSHINE COAST DRAFT COASTAL HAZARD ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Dear Mayor Jamieson,

As you know the Council has been facilitating the development of the Sunshine Coast 'Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy' (CHAS) over the last eighteen months. This has involved extensive research and development by Council staff and their consultants in order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the range of coastal hazards impacting the Sunshine Coast now, and into the future.

As part of this process the Council established a Community Advisory Group (CAG) which, as you also know through your participation leading and monitoring the project along with your fellow elected councillors, has met periodically to learn about the nature of coastal hazards and to contribute to the discussion informing their various interest groups and organisations about the development of the CHAS.

We now have a draft CHAS to be made available for wider community comment.

In my role as Independent Chair I have been kept up to date with developments over the last eighteen months. Slowed, of course, by the challenges of undertaking consultations with the community as they worked with COVID-19 restrictions, including physical distancing and limits on meetings. Notwithstanding these challenges Council staff and their consultants found innovative and creative ways to engage as widely as possible to inform and learn from members of the community.

The periodic CAG meetings, initially in person – valuable in getting to know other members of the CAG and to understand their different points of view – and then via online meetings were well presented by Council staff and their consultants informing community members and interested organisations: State Government departments, community and business organisations; about the nature of coastal hazards and, importantly, how to address them.

The draft CHAS sets out strategies to be addressed now and over this century such that the predicted changes along the coastline are anticipated and effectively managed. This long-term time frame makes this Council strategy an important document setting out the Council's role in this regard now and for future councils.

As such the consultations around the draft need to be as open and widespread as possible. It will be the way in which this - and future councils - work with their communities to minimise the impact of coastal changes that will define ongoing success in addressing coastal hazards.

I recommend this draft CHAS to you and your fellow Councillors and look forward to your participation in the community discussion it will create.

Yours sincerely,



Dr John Martin
Independent Chair
Community Advisory Group
Sunshine Coast Council Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy

Date: 28 October 2020