

HAZARD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR THE ONSLOW COAST

In August 2015, the Shire of Ashburton engaged Cardno to prepare a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan for the Onslow Coast.

This information sheet has been prepared to provide an introduction to the Plan and its objectives; the proposed process for its development; and how key stakeholders and the community may be involved in its preparation.

Western Australian coastal zones are susceptible to future impacts due to climate change and associated extreme weather events causing coastal inundation, coastal flooding and erosion. With these hazards comes an increasing vulnerability for other land uses, developments and assets that exist within the coastal zone.

As local and State government planning and investment decisions are typically long term, they are likely to be affected by any of these potential hazards within their lifetime. As such the overall objective of this project is to prepare a **Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) for the Onslow Townsite and immediate surrounding areas** that:

- Meets the requirements of the *Western Australian Planning Commission's State Planning Policy No. 2.6* and associated coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning guidelines, which require that proposed developers and landholders assess and mitigate the risk of coastal hazards within the coastal zone.
- Assists the Shire of Ashburton in planning for and managing future erosion and inundation risk, and identifies potential hazards associated with existing and future development in the coastal zone.



What's a CHRMAP?

A CHRMAP provides a framework for including **coastal hazard considerations** in decision-making processes. Such a framework is critical within Australia, where more than 85% of the population live within 50km of the coast.

At a minimum a CHRMAP includes:

- **Identification of coastal assets**, such as foreshore reserves, caravan parks, and jetties that may be at risk of being impacted by coastal hazards during the planning timeframe; and identifying possible 'success criteria' that will be applied to assess risk tolerances and therefore guide adaptation measures.
- **Identification of potential risks** to coastal assets due to coastal hazards such as storm-induced erosion, inundation, rising sea levels and the likelihood of these risks occurring.
- **Development of a plan** that identifies suitable management measures that respond to the identified coastal hazard risks and monitors how well coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning activities are working, e.g. coastal erosion monitoring activities via photography.

The CHRMAP to be developed as part of this project will guide the ongoing development of the town of Onslow and the broader coastal area, and will play an important role in the Shire of Ashburton's current preparation of a Local Planning Strategy which provides a vision for future planning and development within the Shire.



The proposed Study Area for this project is shown below.



Why does Onslow need a CHRMAP?

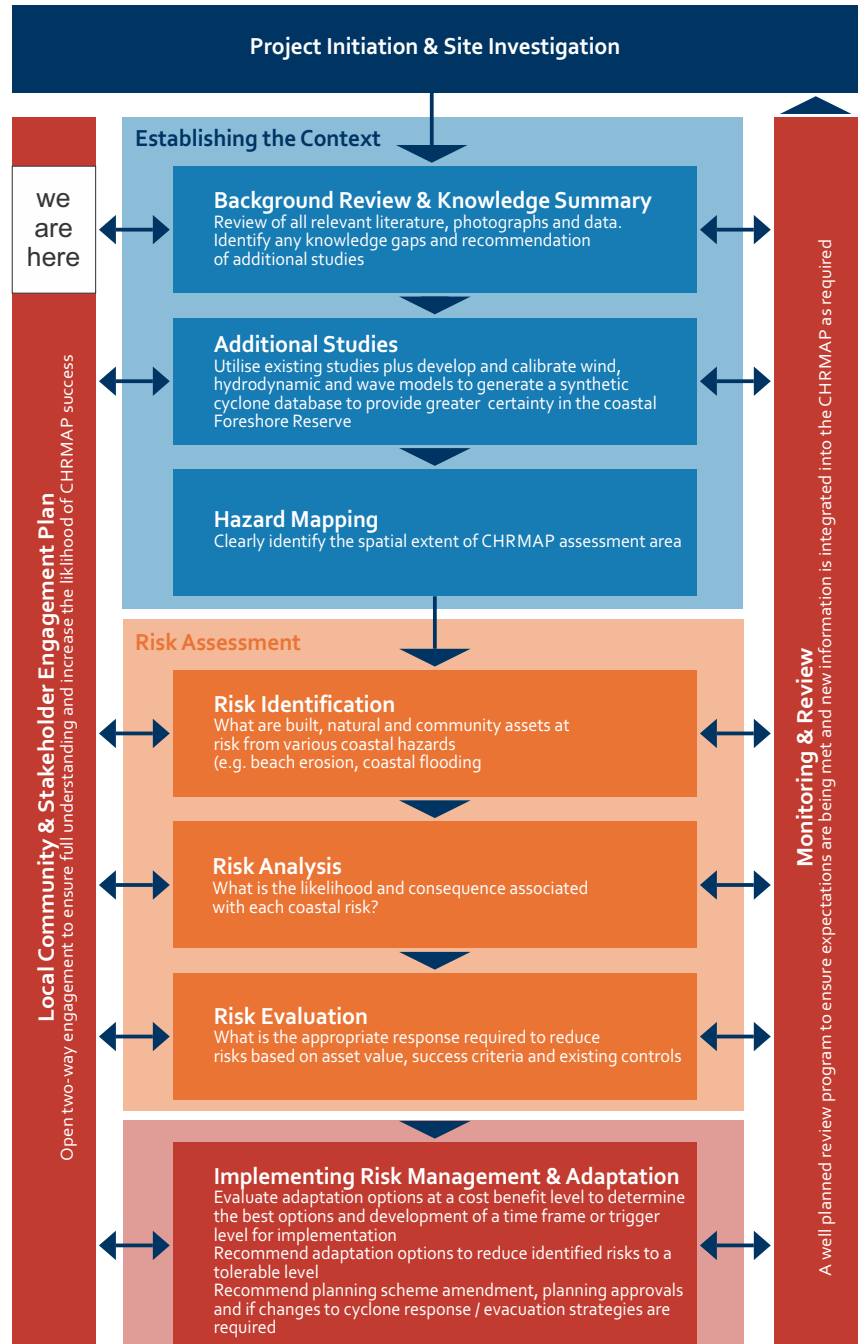
The town of Onslow is expecting significant population growth in the future, due in large part to the recent development of liquid natural gas production facilities in the nearby Ashburton North Strategic Industrial Area.

To plan for the future and accommodate anticipated pressures on the coastal zone, due to increased population and development, the Shire of Ashburton has recently investigated and redefined the 'Onslow Coastal Hazard Area – Special Control Area' which includes a significant portion of the town.

A key outcome of the CHRMAP will be to investigate the extent of the coastal hazard area so that development of the coastline can occur for the long term; while at the same time assisting the Shire in maximising its use of the coastal foreshore area.

The need for a CHRMAP has therefore been triggered by a combination of:

- **Proposed investment:** in that some areas of the Shire are to be targeted for further development in the future.
- **The required approval of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC):** which is linked to future development in the area.
- **Perceived risk due to coastal proximity:** as determined in the findings of technical studies undertaken to date.



How can I be involved?

Community and stakeholder engagement is a key component in the development of a CHRMAP; for example through the identification of key built and natural assets, assessment of their value to the community and possible 'success criteria' to be incorporated into the Plan. As such, Cardno has included Umwelt Australia's social team as a part of the broader project team, to develop and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy to support the project.

A number of mechanisms are proposed to both inform and engage with the community and stakeholders, such as:

- **Information updates** on the Shire's website and Facebook page.
- **Project information sheets** (such as this one) to be prepared at key project milestones.
- Community and key stakeholder **workshops** and **interviews** to be held in Onslow.



What will be the Project's Outcomes?

The CHRMAP will include:

- The development of conceptual adaptation options to mitigate the risk of coastal hazards. These include:
 - **Planning responses** such as amendments to the Shire's Planning Scheme and local planning policies.
 - **Coastal erosion mitigation options**, in line with the State Coastal Planning Policy's adaptation hierarchy.
 - **Coastal inundation mitigation options** such as adopting specific finished floor levels, and incorporation of information into cyclone and emergency response plans.
 - **Recommendations** for the town's drainage system and its interaction with coastal processes, particularly extreme ocean inundation.
- An **evaluation of potential retreat options** and triggers for managed retreat where necessary and feasible.
- A **recommended monitoring program** that monitors the identified risks, including monitoring of the CHRMAP itself.

Who to contact for further information?

If you would like to know more about the project and the development of the Plan, please don't hesitate to contact the following project team members:

Shire of Ashburton:

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For further information on the **proposed engagement program** and how you can be **involved** please contact:

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We look forward to your participation and involvement in this important project.

