

It's a fact that our community will be more at risk from coastal natural hazards in the future.

The Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazards Strategy 2120 considers the risks associated with coastal hazards, and their likely effects.

One of the most important tasks is to work with communities to develop responses to each risk. For more information, visit www.hbcoast.co.nz, or read this list of 'Often Asked Questions'.

1. Why are you doing this?

Two reasons. Much of what happens on one part of our coast affects another part, so we need a wider approach to develop solutions for more than one coastal community.

Also, the Government's Coastal Policy Statement has set us the task to consider and plan for coastal hazard risks over at least a 100 year timeframe. New information, revised sea level rise predictions and the need to be better coordinated has prompted a joint-Council re-assessment of current hazard identification and planning processes.

2. Who is behind it?

It's the work of a joint committee of elected members from Hastings District and Napier City and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils, and tāngata whenua members appointed from Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust, Mana Ahuriri Incorporated and He Toa Takitini, chaired by HBRC's Peter Beaven. A supporting Technical Advisory Group include senior staff from each partner council with some consultant advice.

3. What do you expect to achieve?

Our climate and our coast are changing. We need to understand and plan for this, starting with the coastal areas between Tangoio and Clifton. Our project vision is that

coastal communities, businesses and critical infrastructure from Tangoio to Clifton are resilient to the effects of coastal hazards.

4. How do I know if a property is at risk?

Online maps show where and to what degree properties might expect coastal erosion, flooding from sea water and tsunami risk. Specific information sheets and live maps are online at www.hbcoast.co.nz.

5. How are 'at risk' properties identified?

In 2015, consultants from Tonkin & Taylor Ltd were asked to assess coastal hazard risks between Clifton and Tangoio.

Their report uses the latest local shoreline monitoring data, international sea level rise projections and best-practice methods to model the likely reach of coastal hazards today, in 2065, and 2120.

6. Are Coastal Hazard Zones changing?

If your property is already in a Coastal Hazard Zone under the Napier District Plan and Regional Coastal Environment Plan, those zones and rules still apply.

The Strategy presents new information about coastal hazards, concerning coastal erosion, coastal inundation and tsunami. There may be some changes to coastal hazard zones in regional and district plans, but only after full analysis and public feedback has been considered.

By law, city and district councils must note the existence of new hazard information on any Land Information Memorandums (LIMs) requested for your property. LIMs issued after 3 May 2016 will show new information from the Coastal Hazards reports.

7. Will new rules and regulations come after the Coastal Hazard Strategy?

There are no new regulations right now.

In later stages of the Strategy and after talking with our communities, responses to this new coastal hazards information will need to be developed. This may include changing the existing Coastal Hazard Zones and/or regulations in regional plans and district plans.

It also may involve options to construct barriers, other approaches and ways to fund those options.

8. Will local sea levels rise?

We have adopted projected increases in sea level of between 0.3 and 0.6 m by 2065 and 0.6 and 1.5 m by 2120 for the Strategy.

This is based on the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates for global sea level rise, with additional local information and reporting. These projected figures are in line with Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment reports. A review of Hawke's Bay coastal hazards in 2008 adopted a sea level rise projection of only 0.5m by 2100.

9. My property hasn't flooded or had erosion

Many areas identified with a coastal hazard risk have not been flooded or experienced erosion recently, but our climate is changing.

Research suggests that coastal areas will become more severely affected by flooding and erosion will become more widespread.

Over the next century, many properties along our coastline could be affected and it is important that an appropriate strategy is developed to proactively manage this.

10. Will this affect my property value?

Most properties shown as potentially affected by coastal hazards are already in an existing Coastal Hazard Zone. The strategy reassesses the risk of coastal hazards based on new information and methods. Similar assessments of risk have been done for other hazards, such as earthquake, liquefaction, etc.

A 2008 report by a local professional valuation company looked at the impact of coastal hazard zoning on property values and found *"insufficient evidence that anything other than normal market forces are at play in affecting property values"* at case study localities.

To what degree new research may or may not influence property values is unknown, subject to market demands.

11. What about insurance on my house?

Climate change and the resulting increased frequency and severity of storm events is a concern to the insurance industry.

Talk to your insurer directly if you have specific concerns.

This works must consider and plan for coastal hazards risks over at least a 100 year time-frame. Not all properties will be subject to the impacts of coastal processes over the same time period.

12. What if my neighbour isn't affected by a coastal hazard but I am?

Computer modelling of coastal hazard areas looks at factors like varying coastal processes, elevations, land forms, etc. Variances will occur with hazard areas extending over some properties for differing distances and not at all for other properties.

13. Can I build on my vacant section, alter or improve my house?

At this stage there are no additional regulations. If your property is in an existing Coastal Hazard Zone, the same rules apply.

For some activities in the existing Coastal Hazard Zones, a resource consent from the Regional Council is needed before the activity can be lawfully carried out. Depending on the coastal hazard risk and other circumstances, council may decline consent, or grant consent with special conditions.

Napier City Council administers the coastal hazard zone from Westshore to Bay View. In this zone the repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of buildings and structures located wholly or partly in the coastal hazard area is a permitted activity, but any new buildings or structures are generally prohibited.

Under the Building Act, if land is likely to be subject to coastal erosion, mandatory requirements under sections 71-74 must be followed, resulting in an entry on the certificate of title. This would specify that a building consent has been issued on land potentially subject to coastal erosion.

14. Can I build a wall to protect my property from the sea?

Ah, no. Rules already restrict construction of seawalls and other protection-type structures along the coast. If you can prove that there is no other practical method and your proposed protection structure will not adversely affect other properties or natural coastal processes, the Regional Council may grant resource consent.

15. What are councils doing about coastal hazards?

Councils have a range of functions to minimise risks for residents.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Regional Council is responsible for controlling the use of land to avoid or mitigate natural hazards. City and District Councils have similar legal functions and they control subdivision in many areas at risk of natural hazards.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council is responsible for river control and drainage works, such as building and maintaining stop banks. Sometimes this is misread as a requirement to 'hold back the sea.' Councils are not legally required to construct physical defences against the sea. From time to time they may become involved in community initiatives to enhance natural coastal protection, i.e. dune restoration programmes. Some city and district councils choose to construct physical works to minimise damages caused by sea wave action on key infrastructure such as roads and other utilities.

16. Will Coastal Hazard Zones change as a result of the Coastal Hazards Strategy?

Existing Coastal Hazard Zones are identified in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan and the Napier District Plan. Hazard zones and associated rules have been through extensive public consultation and hearings processes. Both planning documents must be reviewed every 10 years.

Working closely with affected communities, we need to decide whether, in light of this new hazard information developed for the Coastal Hazards Strategy, the existing zones and rules will assist in making coastal communities resilient to the effects of coastal hazards in the long term.

17. What should I do now?

There is nothing you need to do right now.

Work has now been completed to better understand the likelihood of coastal erosion, coastal flooding and tsunami, plus the consequences of those hazards on the coastline between Tangoio and Clifton.

We now need to decide what to do about these risk factors.

Beginning in 2016 the Councils will invite coastal communities and stakeholders to discuss options for responding to the identified risks. Your input will help shape how we, as a diverse yet relatively small community, respond to the challenges climate change presents for our coast.

Disclaimer: Material in this publication is intended as a guide only. As a guide, it does not attempt to explain any or all provisions of the Strategy nor existing coastal hazard zones and associated rules. Readers are encouraged to refer to the Strategy document online and the HB Hazards portal for more comprehensive information.

