

14 July 2023

Council Endorses Hinchinbrook Shire Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

After two years of investigations, knowledge sharing workshops, community consultation, cost benefit analysis and involvement of a suite of experts in their respective fields, the final draft of the Hinchinbrook Shire Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) was adopted by Council at its General Meeting held on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

The final draft SEM, that has been in development since the first Coastal Reserves Community Consultation Workshop held in September 2021, has now been submitted to the Queensland Government's Department of Environment and Science for review and endorsement.

"Changes in environmental conditions, offshore sand drift and predicted increases in severe weather events will impact the liveability and longevity of our coastal communities. The SEM provides a road map for Council, the community and Government regulators to guide decision making and on-ground actions to meet the challenges, particularly as regard increasing incidence of beach erosion" said Mayor Ramon Jayo.

Council and a team of technical experts facilitated a total of six Hinchinbrook-specific Coastal Management Workshops, two community surveys and a dedicated webpage for any persons interested in engaging in the process throughout the life of the project until now.

The final draft SEM is a culmination of this work, including community feedback, which has now all been incorporated into the final recommendations of this report. As a result, Council is satisfied that not only is the document technically sound, using the best available information, but the actions contained within will be supported by the community it aims to benefit.

Mayor Jayo said "Now that the final draft SEM has been adopted by Council, it requires endorsement from the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science. This endorsement will assist Council in obtaining any necessary permissions for future projects that Council deems appropriate".

Once the Hinchinbrook Shire SEM is endorsed by the Queensland Government, Council will be able to start working on some of the projects already identified as critical in shaping the future resilience of Hinchinbrook's beachside communities against the likely impacts of Climate Change.

A copy of the final draft SEM and supporting documents are available on Council's website, [Coastal Foreshore Management](#) page, and will be updated periodically.

For further information, please contact Council's Natural Assets Team on 4776 4740.

-Ends-

For further enquiries: Media and Communications Officer, Kayla Smith 4776 4642.



25 Lannercost Street
INGHAM QLD 4850



PO Box 366 INGHAM QLD 4850
ABN 46 291 971 168



4776 4600
4776 3233



council@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au
HinchinbrookShireCouncil

