



# Coastal Adaptation and Protection (CAP) Grants – 2026/2027

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Coastal Adaptation and Protection (CAP) grant program provides financial assistance to help coastal managers identify, plan, and implement measures that address coastal hazards and enhance resilience. A complementary stream, the H-CAP Major Project Fund, supports large-scale coastal adaptation projects at priority erosion hotspots.

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## 1. What is a coastal hazard.

A coastal hazard refers to the impacts of natural coastal processes that may affect the environment, public safety, and assets. Common coastal hazards include erosion, accretion, and inundation. Coastal processes—such as waves, currents, and tides—shape the interface between land and sea and can result in coastal hazards.

## 2. What is coastal adaptation?

Coastal adaptation is the process of anticipating, planning for, and adjusting to coastal change to reduce harm and risk and, where possible, realise benefits. Adaptation responds to changes that are occurring or expected, whereas mitigation seeks to prevent future problems.

Successful adaptation can look different across communities: those facing imminent loss may prioritise near-term measures, while others may focus on strategic, longer-term planning. The Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP) process should be used to identify suitable options and guide implementation.

## 3. Why is CHRMAP important?

The Department relies on the CHRMAP process outlined by the Department of Planning Heritage and Lands (DPLH) to guide evidence-based coastal decision making. See Part 4 of the State Planning Policy 2.6 Guidelines: [State Planning Policy 2.6 - Coastal planning](#).

## 4. Can universities and other research organisations apply for a CAP grant?

No. Only coastal managers with mandated responsibility for coastal management may apply. Please discuss concerns with your local government in the first instance.

## 5. I own a house on the beach. Can I apply for a CAP grant?

No. Only coastal managers with mandated responsibility for coastal management may apply. Please discuss concerns with your local government in the first instance.

## 6. What are the eligible project types?

CAP grants are available for the coastline immediately adjacent to the oceans of WA. Estuarine shorelines are included as an area of secondary focus.

Eligible project types include:

**Coastal Monitoring:** Development and implementation of monitoring programs to collect data for coastal zones exposed to hazards. This includes beach and hydrographic surveys, wave and water level measurements, and aerial photography and photogrammetry.

**Investigation:** Targeted studies and investigations to identify the causes of existing coastal hazards, assess their potential future evolution under climate change, and evaluate associated risks and vulnerabilities, leading to the development of appropriate adaptation and management solutions.

**Coastal Adaptation:** Design and implementation of coastal management measures, including managed retreat, hard protection structures such as groynes and seawalls, and soft solutions such as beach nourishment. This may also include preparation of tender documents and supervision of construction works.

**Asset Management:** Condition assessments of existing coastal protection assets such as groynes and seawalls, or development of asset management plans and maintenance programs.

**Maintenance:** Ongoing maintenance, repair, upgrade, or removal of existing coastal protection structures to maintain their safety, functionality, and alignment with current coastal management objectives.

## 7. Can we apply for revegetation of coastal dunes?

Yes, vegetation works may be eligible when they are part of a broader adaptation project, help to maintain erosion buffers, and demonstrate value for money.

If your project is not primarily about adapting to coastal hazards, consider [Coastwest grants](#) under CoastWA.

## 8. Can we apply for dredging canals for boat access?

No. Dredging aimed at improving vessel access is not eligible under CAP grants.

## 9. Can we apply for funding for boating facilities?

No. Projects involving the creation or maintenance of boating facilities are not eligible under CAP. You may be eligible to apply for the [Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme \(RBFS\) grants](#), which funds planning and construction of public recreational boating infrastructure:

## 10. What if our project has already started, or is part of a staged project?

Funding is generally not available for projects that have commenced or been completed. However, funding may be provided for a discrete stage of a broader or multi-year project, provided that the stage is eligible and has not begun at the time of application. For example: applicants may seek funding for one year of a three-year contract, as long as the contract is itemised by year. All funded project stages must be completed by the end of May in the financial year in which funding is granted.

**11. How much money is available for this round of CAP grants?**

A total of \$1,500,000 is available for allocation in this round.

**12. Is there a ceiling on the amount we can receive?**

Yes. The minimum grant request is \$20,000 (exclusive GST) and the maximum is \$500,000 (exclusive GST). Applicants are generally required to contribute at least 50% of the total project value. In special circumstances, a 25% minimum contribution is allowable for small-capacity coastal managers. If you are unsure about eligibility for the 25% co-funding, please email:

[coastal.management@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:coastal.management@transport.wa.gov.au). The remainder of project costs must be funded by the applicant (which may include eligible in-kind contributions—see FAQs #16–17).

**13. How much money should we apply for?**

Your request should match your project's needs and demonstrate value for money. To help you set your budget, review past successful projects on the CAP grants webpage: [Coastal Adaptation and Protection \(CAP\) Grants and H-CAP Major Project Fund | Transport WA](#)

Remember the \$20,000 minimum and \$500,000 maximum per application. If you are uncertain whether some components are eligible, you may reduce the scope or propose a higher applicant contribution.

**14. My project cost is below the grant minimum - what do I do?**

Please contact the Coastal Engineering and Management team to discuss options:

[coastal.management@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:coastal.management@transport.wa.gov.au)

**15. Can internal project management costs be included in the total project cost?**

No. Internal project management costs and general administrative expenses (e.g., phone, postage, administrative salaries) are ineligible. Overheads (e.g., leave, superannuation, workers' compensation) are also excluded.

**16. Can our organisations equipment or materials be counted as in-kind contributions toward our required share?**

Yes. In-kind contributions can be considered when documented at standard market rates (e.g., shire owned plant such as loaders and trucks). Similarly, LGA's may undertake parts of a monitoring program with in-house staff (e.g., beach profiles), and seek funding for other components (e.g., wave data collection, aerial photography). Only direct labour is eligible as in-kind. Project management, administration, overheads, and depreciation are not eligible).

**17. Do we need a financial statement signed by an independent auditor?**

No. An internally produced statement that summarises all relevant information is acceptable subject to review and approval by DTMI.

**18. How do we apply?**

A new online grants management system was introduced in July 2024. Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted via a DTMI Grants portal accessible from the CAP/H-CAP webpage: [Coastal Adaptation and Protection \(CAP\) Grants and H-CAP Major Project Fund | Transport WA](#)

How-to guide for applicants and register an account can be found: [Grants and fundings | Transport WA](#).

Note: eligible H-CAP applicants will receive an email invitation from the Coastal Management Team to apply for an H-CAP grant via the Transport WA Grants portal. This email will also include the 2026/2027 Project Proposal Guidelines.

### **19. What information should be included in my project scope?**

A clear project scope outlines objectives and delivery: who, what, where, when, why, cost, potential issues (environmental, social, cultural, heritage), and required approvals.

The application form captures much of this information; however, it does not replace a formal scope. A formal scope document should be developed at the outset of any successful project.

### **20. What is the deadline to apply for funding?**

The 2026/2027 applications close at 12pm on Wednesday 15 April 2026.

### **21. What are the funding selection criteria?**

Applications are assessed according to the following selection criteria:

- There is a demonstrated and substantial public benefit(s) (25 per cent).
- There is a demonstrated need(s) for the project (20 per cent).
- The project approach is suitable to effectively manage the coastal hazard(s) (35 per cent).
- The Coastal Manager has a proven track record, or equivalent experience, for successfully managing coastal management and protection projects or similar (20 per cent).

### **22. Who evaluates the applications?**

An assessment panel reviews all applications. Assessors first score individually, then the panel meets to discuss and reach a consensus score. Each member has an equal vote and must declare any vested interests and abstain from voting on such projects. The highest-ranking applications are allocated funds until the budget pool has been allocated.

### **23. How long does the application process take?**

Successful applicants are announced early in the 2026-27 financial year and must sign a Funding Agreement before grant funding can be approved.

### **24. Will we receive the exact amount we request?**

Not necessarily. If approved, you may receive a percentage of your requested funding for specific components only, depending on demand and available funds.

### **25. What evidence of land vesting/authority is required?**

Provide documentation such as a Management Order, vesting, or land title demonstrating your organisation's management responsibility. If the land is not under your management, provide the relevant owner/manager details and include their written permission and support.

**26. What if we cannot complete our project in time to acquit the grant in May?**

If your project is behind schedule you are required to submit a variation via the grants on-line portal. You will require a letter from your CEO or similar making a request for the extension, explaining the reasons for the delay, and providing evidence and/or commitments to finalise the project as per the funding agreement. You should discuss any requests for variation with your DTMI Project Manager first. Failure to do so may result in a reduced grant amount and decreased competitiveness in future rounds.

**27. If our application is unsuccessful, can we reapply in a future round?**

Yes. You are encouraged to seek feedback on why your application was unsuccessful and use that feedback to strengthen your future applications.

**28. Is funding available for emergency/temporary coastal works?**

Dedicated funding is not available for emergency or temporary coastal works. Such measures should only be used when the value of public assets at risk exceeds the cost of the intervention. Responsibility for initiating and managing temporary works rests with local coastal managers. DTMI may offer technical advice where capacity permits.

**29. Will applications for trial options be considered?**

Yes—trial options that are likely to manage hazards and demonstrate value for money may be considered eligible. Coastal managers exploring trial approaches (with or without CAP funding) are encouraged to review the: [Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines in Coastal Management and Planning](#).

**30. Our coast contains both private and public assets. How should public funding be allocated?**

Including a Benefit Distribution Analysis (BDA) as part of your CHRMAP is strongly recommended. Applications that involve both private and public benefits but do not include a BDA are likely to be less competitive. While CAP grants do not fund BDAs, support may be available through the Coastal Management Plan Assistance Program (CMPAP). For example, private coastal landholders benefiting from protection works should contribute directly or indirectly (e.g., a special coastal services charge via their local government). Standard rates alone are not considered sufficient. Please refer to the following links for additional resource materials:

- [Benefit Distribution Analysis Fact Sheet](#)
- [CMPAP CoastWA Grants](#)

**31. Why are grants for new coastal protection works not encouraged as a first step?**

Under State Planning Policy (SPP) 2.6, "Protect" sits at the bottom of the coastal response hierarchy, following Avoid, Planned/Managed Retreat, and Accommodate. Managers are guided away from measures that limit future flexibility or are unlikely to be sustainable (financially or environmentally). In the short to medium term, CAP grants can support interim protection for existing public assets in immediate hazard zones, while councils develop long-term adaptive land-use strategies.



**32. How much does a year of wave data collection cost?**

The requirements for oceanographic data (waves, water levels, currents, temperature, etc.) vary significantly from project to project. Consequently, the associated costs depend on factors such as the duration of data collection, the types of oceanographic parameters required, the instruments and their configurations, and the deployment locations. Therefore, it is recommended to contact:

[tides@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:tides@transport.wa.gov.au) for detailed information regarding data collection costs.

**33. We have erosion threatening coastal assets. Should we build a seawall?**

Protection structures (e.g., revetments groynes) should be proposed only when robust evidence shows other options in the CHRMAP hierarchy are not sustainable.

The preferred order is Avoid → Planned/Managed Retreat → Accommodate → Protect.

Historically, structures have been installed as a first response; however, they are better seen as land-protection structures that may not address erosion drivers and can sometimes accelerate erosion on the seaward side. Global evidence indicates such structures can be unsustainable if not correctly applied. See SPP2.6 Guidelines: [State Planning Policy 2.6 - Coastal planning](#)

**34. If we receive funding for monitoring now, what actions should we take before implementing long-term solutions?**

Developing a CHRMAP is an essential prerequisite for major coastal hazard decisions. Acting without a well-informed plan can exacerbate coastal hazards for decades and over extensive coastline areas, with remediation costs far outweighing any short-term benefits.

While monitoring is underway, local coastal managers should identify and implement temporary measures to manage immediate risks. These measures should be reversible or adaptable so they can be refined as new monitoring data becomes available and as long-term, substantial options are developed.

**35. Our coast has unique natural assets that are hard to value. How do we assess their worth?**

We recognise some coastal areas have unique natural assets or provide distinct community value. Include information demonstrating local importance (e.g., recreation, access, amenity, ecosystem services, unique location). Consider evidence showing why your project area is more valuable than other areas you manage.

For guidance on quantifying community values affected by coastal hazards, see CHRMAP Guidelines Appendix 5 – Non-Market Valuation Instruments (DPLH & WAPC, 2019):

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/coastal-hazard-risk-management-and-adaptation-planning-guidelines>

**36. What are sediment cells and why are they used in coastal management?**

Sediment cells are units within which there is limited sediment exchange across boundaries. They are described across three scales:

- Primary cells: major landform responses over >100 years.
- Secondary cells: shore-face movement and landform responses over inter-decadal timeframes.
- Tertiary cells: nearshore sediment reworking with seasonal to inter-annual responses.

Applicants must consider the broader area of the hazard—not just the immediate site—at one or more of these scales. Sediment cells provide management units for selecting and assessing adaptation options, including potential down-drift impacts (e.g., shifting erosion). Creating or shifting hazards in adjacent cells is a significant adverse impact.

Sediment cells currently described for Pilbara, Northampton, Mid-West, and Vlamingh regions should guide context and scale. If your LGA is outside mapped areas, consider an appropriate broad reach (e.g., several kilometres either side) and suitable landward/seaward boundaries.

Please refer to the following links for further information and resources:

[Coastal sediment cells](#)

[Coastal erosion hotspots](#)

### **37. How should we frame a “design and construct” (D&C) project in our application?**

For D&C projects, break down the proposal into identifiable stages (e.g., design tasks and construction tasks) in the application form, with clear deliverables, timing, and costs for each stage.

### **38. What data is available from DTMI for my project location?**

DTMI is the custodian of tide and water level data, wave data, hydrographic surveys (bathymetry), beach profile surveys, and aerial and field photos. Some datasets and charts are listed here:

<https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imagery/coastal-data-and-charts.asp>.

The Australian Government’s new geospatial capability, the Digital Atlas of Australia:

<https://digital.atlas.gov.au/>, curates and connects hundreds of trusted national datasets in a single platform. It offers advanced functionality including visualisation and analytics along with a range of user-friendly maps and applications.

NationalMap has been decommissioned but datasets currently available can still be accessed via:

<https://data.gov.au/>

### **39. If our project is ineligible or unsuccessful, what other grant programs can we consider?**

Explore CoastWA programs such as CMPAP (via WAPC) for CHRMAPs, coastal strategies, and management plans, and Coastwest for rehabilitation, restoration, and preventative actions:

- [CoastWA grants](#) (CMPAP & Coastwest):
- [RBFS grants](#) (boating infrastructure)
- [Community Rivercare Program Funding](#) (Swan and Canning Riverpark only)