



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Transport**
and **Major Infrastructure**

Maritime Planning

Coastal Adaptation and Protection Grants 2026/2027

Information for Applicants



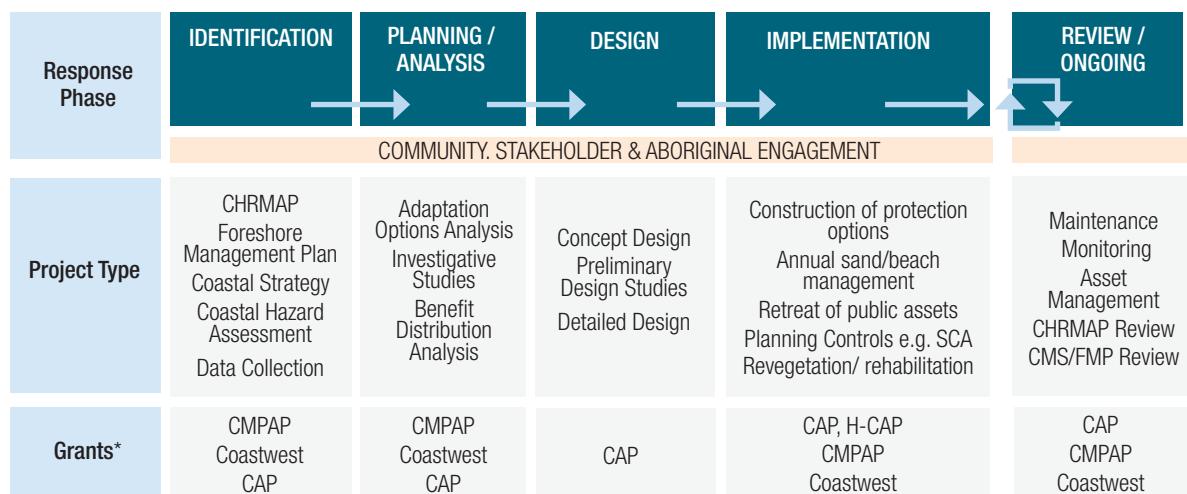
Applications close: Wednesday 15 April 2026 12PM

Introduction

Management of Western Australia's long coastline is a significant and ongoing task, requiring partnerships between the State Government and local coastal managers.

The Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI) administers Coastal Adaptation and Protection (CAP) grants to assist local coastal managers with coastal management. Each year local coastal managers are invited to apply for funds to undertake projects associated with identifying and adapting to coastal hazards.

CAP grants are one of the State's existing coastal management funding opportunities offered through the CoastWA program. An indicative framework is provided below to guide prospective applicants toward the relevant grant.



* Framework [link](#)



DTMI also administers the Hotspot Coastal Adaptation and Protection Major Project Fund (H-CAP) to support projects which design and implement coastal adaptation works. H-CAP is available to local coastal managers with the following:

- A completed or draft Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP).
- One or more locations of erosion and/or inundation concern to be managed by the proposed adaptation project, including but not exclusive to hotspots and watchspots.
- Invitations to apply for H-CAP are sent directly to eligible coastal managers via email, requesting a project proposal submission through the Transport WA Grants portal. Please do not use the CAP guidelines or application form to apply for H-CAP.

To confirm you're on the mailing list or if you haven't received an invitation by late January 2026, please contact the Coastal Management team at coastal.management@transport.wa.gov.au



Above: City Beach vertical wall repair, Town of Cambridge
Front cover: Esperance Bay - prior to sand nourishment work, Shire of Esperance

Aim and objectives

The aim of CAP grants is to ensure coastal managers understand and adapt sustainably to coastal hazards for the public benefit.

Objectives:

- Build capacity of local coastal managers to identify, understand and adapt to coastal hazards appropriately, effectively, and according to need.
- Improve understanding of coastal processes through data collection and monitoring.
- Facilitate coastal engineering and management studies and works throughout asset life cycles, for the public benefit.
- Ensure an appropriate coastal management approach that adheres to the principles of CHRMAP.
- Ensure adaptation options preserve or enhance coastal values and assets to benefit the community.

Erosion and inundation are the two primary coastal hazards with potential to negatively impact people, infrastructure, and the environment. Decisions need to be made that respond to the likely threats arising from climate trends and variability. It is important to develop adaptation options to adequately mitigate the risk posed by coastal hazards.

Risk treatment options that allow for a wide range of potential future risk management flexibility are considered more favourably than those that may limit future management decisions. Adaptation options that maintain flexibility will help to create coastal communities that are resilient to the uncertainties associated with coastal environments and climate change impacts.

Successful projects will demonstrate an understanding of coastal hazards and how adaptation options will manage the risk over different timeframes. New coastal protection works are not permitted unless they can be adequately justified in the context of CHRMAP.

Adaptation options that provide solutions to problems arising from coastal hazards should be sought from the following CHRMAP hierarchy on a sequential and preferential basis:

- 1. AVOID:** For an area identified to be affected by coastal hazards new development should be avoided.
- 2. PLANNED OR MANAGED RETREAT:** Relocation or the removal of assets within an area identified as likely to be subject to intolerable risk of damage from coastal hazards.
- 3. ACCOMMODATION:** If sufficient justification can be provided for not avoiding construction as a solution for the area that is at risk from coastal hazards then accommodation adaptation measures should be provided that suitably address the identified risk.
- 4. PROTECTION:** Where sufficient justification can be provided for not avoiding the use of engineering intervention and accommodation measures alone cannot adequately address the risks from coastal hazards, then coastal hazard defence works may be proposed for areas in the public interest.

Generally, as options are selected further down the hierarchy (from avoid to protection) future risk management options will diminish.

State Planning Policy No 2.6 State Coastal Planning Policy (SPP 2.6) supports a risk management approach and provides the framework for undertaking risk management and adaptation planning for coastal hazards in Western Australia. The development of CHRMAP is encouraged by DTMI and the Department of Planning, Lands, and Heritage (DPLH) to manage coastal hazards.

For further information on CHRMAP, refer to the latest Australian Standard *Managing Environment-Related Risk* (HB 203:2012), *Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines in Coastal Management and Planning* (NCCOE, 2012), and *Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning Guidelines* (DPLH & WAPC, 2019). A copy of SPP 2.6 can be found on the DPLH website (please see the reference list).

Project eligibility

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:

- **Monitoring:** Development and implementation of monitoring programs to collect data including beach and hydrographic surveys, wave and water level recordings, aerial photography and photogrammetry.
► *Apply for a monitoring grant if you do not have appropriate datasets for the section of coast to which you are concerned about.*
- **Investigation:** Appropriate investigations/studies to determine the causes of existing coastal hazards and the likely impacts of climate change, hazard assessments, vulnerability assessments, and the development of adaptation/management solutions.
► *Apply for an investigation grant if you need to:*
 - *Analyse data to identify relevant local coastal processes.*
 - *Develop a detailed understanding of the erosion problem(s).*
 - *Undertake a hazard assessment to investigate and model coastal hazards (erosion, accretion and inundation) and produce hazard maps.*
 - *Develop appropriate adaptation options to manage the hazards, in accordance with the hierarchy of avoid, managed retreat, accommodate and protect.*

Note: Following a hazard assessment funded by the CAP grants (the first component of a CHRMAP), the Coastal Management Plan Assistance Program (CMPAP) administered by DPLH on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), may be able to fund subsequent components of a CHRMAP. Alternatively, if you are interested in undertaking a full CHRMAP (including a hazard assessment), apply for a CMPAP grant. Please refer to the CoastWA website for further details [CoastWA grants \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

- **Adaptation:** Design (including concept, preliminary, and detailed design) and/or implementation of managed retreat, construction of coastal protection structures such as groynes and seawalls, or soft protection measures such as beach nourishment. This can include contracted preparation of tender documents and contracted construction supervision.
► *Apply for an adaptation grant when monitoring and investigation has been completed, and to develop appropriate design and/or implementation of adaptation measures to manage the hazards in accordance with the CHRMAP hierarchy (managed retreat, accommodate and protect).*
- **Asset management:** Condition inspections of existing coastal protection infrastructure such as groynes and seawalls, or development of asset management plans, maintenance programs, etc.
► *Apply for an asset management grant if you have existing assets, asset management plans, and/or maintenance programs and their future management needs to be reviewed; or you have existing assets and a new asset management plan or maintenance program is required.*
- **Maintenance:** The maintenance or removal of existing coastal protection structures.
► *Apply for a maintenance grant when you have existing assets that presently fall within a suitable asset management plan or program, and maintenance works at the asset have already been identified for actioning under that plan or program.*

Please note that coastal projects not eligible for CAP grants may be eligible for [Coastwest grants](#) or [CMPAP grants](#), administered by DPLH on behalf of the WAPC. You can find further information www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/coastwest-grants.

Beyond funding assistance, DTMI can provide:

- Access to DTMI's maritime expertise, including technical advice.
- Access to relevant information held by DTMI, such as data on waves, water levels, shoreline movements and beach and hydrographic surveys.
- Review of projects to ensure consistency with relevant Australian standards and coastal management principles.

Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the following 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).



See the Guidelines at the end of this brochure for more information.

Who may apply?

CAP grants are available to local coastal managers with coastal management authority, defined here as:

- State and Local government authorities with a vested responsibility for coastal management.
- State Government agencies and authorities actively involved in coastal management.
- Aboriginal Land Councils with responsibility for coastal management.
- Other corporate bodies directly responsible for coastal management.

Only coastal managers can apply for a CAP grant. However, others interested in applying may make a joint application with a coastal manager. If the project site will cover land managed by other coastal managers in addition to land managed by your own coastal management authority, then you will need to consult with those other coastal managers, and also attach a letter of support for your project as part of your application.

Mettams pool night time sand nourishment work, City of Stirling



Funding

A total funding pool of \$3,000,000 has been allocated for the 2026/2027 financial year, comprising:

- \$1,500,000 for CAP grants
- \$1,500,000 for H-CAP grants

Award Timing: Grants are awarded after the start of the 2026/2027 financial year.

Project Completion Deadline: All projects must be completed and acquitted by close of the 2026/2027 financial year. Failure to do so may result in the termination of the grant agreement.

CAP grants:

- Minimum grant amount: \$20,000
- Maximum grant amount: \$500,000
- Funding contribution: Up to 75% of the total project cost

Contribution Requirements:

Applicants must cover remaining project costs, which may include external funding or in-kind contributions (excluding admin, management fees, overheads, or depreciation). See item 9 of the guidelines.

For CAP funding there is usually a minimum contribution of 50% of the total project value for all project types. In special circumstances, a minimum of 25% is allowable for small-capacity coastal managers. If you are unsure about your eligibility for the 25% co-funding, please contact: coastal.management@transport.wa.gov.au

H-CAP grants:

Minimum grant request: \$500,000

Maximum grant amount: \$1,500,000

All amounts are quoted exclusive of GST

General conditions

Before a project commences, successful applicants will be required to:

- Sign a Grant Agreement which sets out the terms and conditions of the grant.
- Seek formal approval of a detailed project scope, design report, detailed design or study brief from DTM.

At the conclusion of the project, the coastal manager:

- Must provide a financial statement covering all project costs, including in-kind costs.
- Must provide an electronic copy of all the data, reporting, and any associated documents in the format requested by DTM.
- Must provide any other project information as requested.
- Owns any assets created and is responsible for all ongoing maintenance and management.
- Encouraged to consider The Western Australian Whole of Government [Open Data Policy 2022](#) and make publicly available data obtained through the grant, with due consideration of their own legislative requirements.



See the Guidelines at the end of this brochure for more information.

How to apply

Applications for the CAP and H-CAP grants will open on **Monday 2 February 2026** and close **Wednesday 15 April 2026**.

All DTMI grant programs are managed through the **Transport WA Grants** (OmniStar) system.

To learn how to register for an account, access applicant instructions, and find contact details for account issues - including the Transport WA Grants login link please visit: www.transport.wa.gov.au/about-us/grants-subsidies/grants-funding

To complete your application:

- Login into the portal and submit your grant application using the on-line application form.
- Clearly demonstrate how your project meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the guidelines.
- Upload all relevant attachments or supporting photos directly in the portal.

For more information and guidance please visit: [Coastal Adaptation and Protection \(CAP\) Grants and H-CAP Major Project Fund | Transport WA](#).

You may also find this resource helpful - [Coastal Erosion Hotspots in Western Australia – Information Sheet](#).

When submissions close, all applications will be assessed for their eligibility.

Ensure that you set aside sufficient time to complete your application and provide all the required supporting documentation.

An assessment panel will evaluate applications and make recommendations for approval to the Minister for Transport.

Contact

For inquiries specific to CAP and H-CAP programs, please contact: coastal.management@transport.wa.gov.au

Grant timeline



Examples of successful past projects

Town of Cambridge – 2024/2025

City Beach Groyne and Vertical Wall Repair - Maintenance

The Town of Cambridge secured \$200,000 in funding to carry out essential repairs and maintenance to the City Beach groyne and vertical sea wall.

Located at one of Perth's most iconic and well-loved beaches these structures play a vital role in reducing erosion risk, and associated shoreline retreat, to the beach and adjacent foreshore reserve which provides open space, BBQ facilities, and beach access infrastructure for the public to enjoy.



City of Greater Geraldton – 2024/2025

Monitoring Coastal Hotspots Year 4 – Monitoring

The City of Greater Geraldton was awarded \$21,849.45 to continue its biannual coastal monitoring program, focusing on erosion hotspots where adaptive management measures are already in place. This long-term effort will strengthen the evidence base, and enhance understanding of local coastal processes, and support strategic planning by identifying changes that may trigger timely management responses and enable more accurate tracking of risks related to coastal erosion. Ongoing monitoring is a proactive approach that supports informed planning, effective adaptation, and implementation of coastal adaptation strategies.



City of Joondalup – 2024/2025

Sand Bypassing Program Year 6 - Adaptation

The City of Joondalup has initiated its sixth year of sand bypassing from Sorrento Beach to Hillarys Beach, supported by \$123,000 in funding. This proactive coastal management program is designed to reduce erosion at Hillarys Beach, provide a protective buffer against storm events, and safeguard the coastal dunes and surrounding public open space.

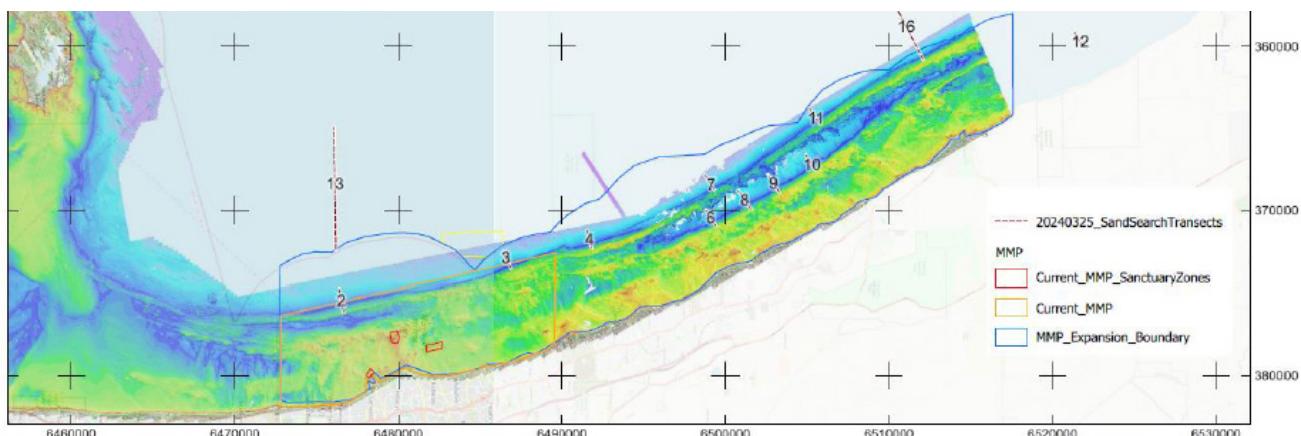
Sand bypassing is essential to maintaining the natural movement of sand along the coast, which is disrupted by structures like breakwaters and groynes. Without intervention, this disruption can lead to significant erosion, loss of beach area, and damage to valuable community assets.



City of Wanneroo, City of Joondalup, and City of Stirling – 2024/25

Offshore Sand Sources Dredge Impact Study - Investigation

The cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup and Stirling have jointly secured \$65,154.50 in funding to conduct dredge plume and nearshore wave modelling to build the case for offshore sediment supply to nourish the cities' beaches. This work builds on works completed under previous CAP grants aiming to demonstrate that sediment can be sourced responsibly and sustainably from offshore locations allowing for significant beach nourishment projects to be completed along the coastline of these three cities.



Coastal Adaptation and Protection Grant Guidelines

January 2026

General

- 1 Coastal Adaptation and Protection (CAP) Grants are available for the coastline immediately adjacent to the oceans of Western Australia. Estuarine shorelines are included as an area of secondary focus.
- 2 Grants are available to local coastal managers defined as: local government authorities who have vested responsibility for coastal management; State Government agencies and authorities actively involved in coastal management; Aboriginal land councils with responsibility for coastal management; other corporate bodies directly involved with coastal management. Others interested in applying for the grant may make a joint application with an identified coastal manager.
- 3 The applicant must have appropriate authority/approval to manage the coastal lands in this project. If the project site will cover land managed by other coastal management authorities in addition to land managed by your own coastal management authority, then you will need to consult with those other authorities, and also attach a letter of support for your project as part of your application.
- 4 More than one application can be submitted by the same coastal manager.

Funding

- 5 A total of \$1,500,000 is available for allocation to CAP grants in the 2026/2027 financial year. Projects must be completed by May 2027; failure to do so may result in termination of the grant.
- 6 Funding is available for up to 75 per cent of the total project cost for monitoring, investigation, asset management, adaptation, and maintenance project types. The remainder of the project cost is to be funded by the applicant.
- 7 The minimum grant limit for each application is \$20,000 excluding GST. The maximum grant limit for each application is \$500,000 excluding GST. Grant amounts applied for must exclude GST.
- 8 Grants are limited to immediate project costs and payment will not be made for incidental costs such as administration or project management. Funding by the applicant can include funding from other sources, including government departments.
- 9 Funding by the applicant can include in-kind contributions from their organisation such as machinery, labour or materials, but not administration or internal project management costs. In-kind contributions, in terms of materials, labour or machinery use, need to be quantified. Overhead cost (e.g. overtime, leave, superannuation, etc) and machinery depreciation cannot be included as in-kind. Applicants must provide details of the value of any in-kind work claimed.
- 10 The applicant is to fund any cost overruns. Only significant increases in costs due to factors beyond the applicant's control may be considered for funding upon lodgement of a variation request, if financial capacity exists within the CAP grant at the time.
- 11 Applicants may be offered funding for certain elements of a project or offered a percentage of the funding requested.
- 12 Grants are typically paid in arrears. However, the applicant may request up to 50 per cent of the grant to be paid following project commencement if there is proper justification. The remaining 50 per cent will be paid on project completion.

continued

Project eligibility criteria

13 Eligible project types include:

- **Monitoring:** Development and implementation of monitoring programs to collect data including beach and hydrographic surveys, wave and water level recordings, aerial photography and photogrammetry.
- **Investigation:** Appropriate investigations/studies to determine the causes of existing coastal hazards and the likely impacts of climate change, hazard assessments, vulnerability assessments, and the development of adaptation/management solutions.
- **Asset management:** Condition inspections of existing coastal protection infrastructure (e.g. groynes, seawalls) and development of asset management/maintenance programs.
- **Adaptation:** Design and implementation of managed retreat, construction of coastal protection structures (e.g. groynes, seawalls) or beach nourishment. This can include the preparation of tender documents and construction supervision.
- **Maintenance:** The maintenance of existing coastal protection structures.

14 Coastal engineering works will only be considered for grant funding if:

- All other options for avoiding and adapting to coastal hazards have been fully explored and documented, as part of a coastal hazard risk management adaptation planning process.
- Comprehensive investigation (including data collection, review and appropriate design) have been undertaken to demonstrate that the engineering works will not cause significant adverse impacts on the adjacent environment within the sediment cell.
- The engineering works are primarily proposed in the public interest to ensure they maintain a coastal foreshore reserve, public access, public amenity, public safety and high value public infrastructure that is not expendable.
- Appropriate planning, documentation and funding arrangements are in place for the ongoing monitoring and maintenance.

15 Projects ineligible for funding include:

- Applications that do not demonstrate that the appropriate monitoring or investigation have been undertaken to initially understand the coastal hazard.
- Construction projects that have not demonstrated that all other options for avoiding and adapting to coastal hazards have been fully explored as part of a coastal hazard risk management adaptation planning process.
- Projects that have significant adverse impacts on the adjacent environment within the sediment cell.
- Retrospective projects. Funding is not available for projects that have commenced (are not a stage of a previously approved project) or have been completed.
- Rehabilitation or landscaping primarily for amenity value rather than maintaining erosion buffers.
- Projects that have not obtained the relevant environmental and statutory approvals.

16 Existing coastal protection structures that require significant upgrade or maintenance will be subject to the conditions in guideline 14 (above) to be considered for funding.

17 Non-performance or poor performance on any previous Coastal Adaptation and Protection Grant project may reduce your chance of being awarded future CAP funding; this is one of the selection criteria (refer Guideline 23).

continued

Application process

- 18 Applicants are encouraged to provide as much relevant information as possible. Providing clear evidence of the coastal management requirements in the area will be critical for a grant funding application to be successful.
- 19 Applications that provide relevant plans, reports and/or detailed concepts and show evidence of how the project fits into a greater context of coastal management planning for the management area will be considered favourably.
- 20 On request, technical advice and review of the proposed project may be provided by DTMI coastal specialists during the application process.
- 21 Applicants can contact the Coastal Management team via email (provided on the back page of this brochure) for information about available data and historical records.

Project assessment

- 22 An assessment panel will review all applications. Applications are first assessed by individuals, then the panel meets to discuss the applications 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 Applications will be 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).

Conditions of successful grants

- 24 Applicants are responsible for obtaining all necessary statutory approvals required for the project.
- 25 A detailed project scope must be approved by DTMI before commencement.
- 26 The work in the proposed project must be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced organisations and personnel, approved by DTMI before commencement.
- 27 For coastal protection structures a design report including design criteria (for example design life, design wave and water level conditions), technical specification and construction drawings must be approved by DTMI prior to construction.
- 28 For construction projects, as-constructed drawings must be provided to DTMI detailing the actual work undertaken, in the format requested by DTMI.
- 29 The applicant will own any assets created through the CAP grant and will be responsible for all associated ongoing maintenance, insurance and management.
- 30 Any reports and associated documentation produced must be provided to DTMI for review prior to finalisation.
- 31 An electronic copy of all the data, final report and any associated documents shall be provided to DTMI in the format requested by DTMI.
- 32 The applicant must provide a financial statement and associated invoices upon completion of the project, which includes the actual cost of each component, as set out in their application.
- 33 DTMI may publish details of grants, projects and recipients and/or use the information for promotional purposes.
- 34 DTMI may specify additional project requirements or conditions where necessary.
- 35 DTMI encourages successful projects to consider The Western Australian Whole of Government Open Data Policy 2022 and make publicly available data obtained through the grant. Note that applicants should consider their own legislative requirements and the value and intended outcome of openness against the cost and potential implications of making that data open.

References

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WAPC (2020) *State Coastal Planning Policy Guidelines*. Western Australian Planning Commission <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2021-06/GD-state-coastal-planning-policy-guidelines-Published-Version-Feb-2021.pdf>

Coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning guidelines. Western Australian Planning Commission www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/coastal-hazard-risk-management-and-adaptation-planning-guidelines

Sunset Beach, City of Greater Geraldton



Contact

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