



Department of
Transport

Coastal Infrastructure **Coastal Hazard Management Role Statement**

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers



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1. Why was the policy reviewed and changed to a role statement?

A review process was undertaken in 2014 and 2015 to assess, update and revise the 2006 Coastal Protection Policy (CPP), a DoT operational policy. It was acknowledged that the CPP (2006) was no longer consistent with best practice approaches to Coastal Management and the principles of *State Coastal Planning Policy (SPP 2.6)*. The CPP (2006) did not effectively describe Department of Transport (DoT) core business function in the planning and development of WA's land and water based maritime infrastructure in addition to administering the Coastal Adaptation and Protection (CAP) grants and the provision of technical advice and assistance. The aim of the review was to develop a document that aligned with the principles of SPP 2.6 and described the role of the Department of Transport (DoT) with regard to Coastal Management in Western Australia.

A 'Draft Coastal Adaptation and Protection Policy' was released for stakeholder comment and feedback in April 2015 for a two month consultation period. Following detailed review by various levels of DoT of all comments and feedback received, it was concluded that the policy was inadequate to stand as a whole of government policy for Coastal Management in WA and it was not supported by any State Legislation. The document was more suited to describing DoT's role in coastal management in Western Australia, consequently the policy was revised to a Role Statement. For more information relating to various State Government agencies involvement in Coastal Management the draft document, *Coastal Zone Management Policy for Western Australia 2001, prepared for the Western Australian Planning Commission* is available at www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/772.asp

2. What is the involvement of the three levels of government in Coastal Management in Western Australia?

Coastal Management is delegated from the Commonwealth Government to each individual State Government and respective local governments within each Australian state. The Commonwealth has an important role in coastal planning and management through its indirect financial and funding powers, and by leading national policy-making in a range of related areas. The Commonwealth has a direct role in managing coastal lands and waters of defence establishments and is a regulator of marine safety. The Commonwealth is also an initiator of research throughout the coastal zone. As well as funding significant national data services (Harvey & Caton, 2010).

The various states around Australia have differing responsibilities for resource management, including management of the coast, and there are a range of agencies that regulate the use of the coastal zone. For Western Australia the most relevant document available that sets out the State Governments strategy towards coastal planning, management and protection is the *Coastal Zone Management Policy for Western Australia 2001*. It was prepared by the Western Australian Planning Commission and is to be finalised by the newly established interagency Coastal Management Advisory Group (CMAG). The SPP2.6 provides statutory guidance and informs matters related to sustainable coastal land use and development.

Generally in Western Australia the management of coastal lands and assets (whether natural or built) on public land is the responsibility of the organisation with management authority, vesting or tenure of the area known as the local coastal manager. Most local coastal managers are local government authorities that have designated management responsibility (through land tenure or vesting) for large tracts of coastal land as foreshore reserves.

3. What are the major responsibilities of DoT's Coastal Infrastructure Business Unit (CIBU)?

The Coastal Infrastructure Business Unit comprises five branches, Coastal Information, Maritime Planning, Project Delivery, Coastal Facilities Management and Business Support. Each branch plays a key role in the delivery of the Business Unit's outcomes.

Maritime Planning researches and prepares strategic plans and detailed designs for the development and enhancement of land and water based maritime infrastructure. Maritime Planning uses scientific information from the Coastal Information branch and works closely with the Project Delivery branch that has responsibility for the construction phase. Guidance on the delivery of maritime facilities and coastal engineering solutions is provided to both the Government and private sector in Western Australia. Maritime Planning has a particular focus on the development of small craft facilities and in providing expert advice on coastal management issues.

Coastal Management is a subgroup of Maritime Planning and provides coastal engineering design and direction to enable the development of CIBU's coastal infrastructure and provides advice externally to coastal managers, local governments and other government agencies. Coastal Management also manages and administers the CAP Grants program.

The Infrastructure Planning Program initiates investigations into the need for maritime facilities, undertakes planning for identified facilities and, provides a regulator and advisory role for maritime facilities proposed by others. Infrastructure planning

also manages and administers the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme Grants program.

4. What is the Coastal Adaptation and Protection (CAP) Grant scheme? Aside from DoT's CAP Grants what funding sources are available for coastal management?

Generally local coastal managers are responsible for the day-to-day management of their coast and assets and allocation of funding within their management budget. DoT assists local coastal managers through the Coastal Adaptation and Protection (CAP) Grant program which provides up to 50% assistance funding through a competitive process for local coastal managers to undertake projects associated with identifying and adapting to coastal hazards. Coastal Adaptation and Protection Grants are available for monitoring, adaptation planning, asset management, adaptation and maintenance projects. Visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/capgrants for further information.

The Western Australian Planning Commission through Department of Planning (DoP) provides funding via the Coastal Management Plan Assistance Program. The grants support coastal land managers to develop coastal hazard risk management adaptation plans (CHRMAs) strategies and management plans for coastal areas that are, or are predicted to become, under pressure from a range of challenges. For further information visit www.planning.wa.gov.au/6857.asp

The Western Australian Planning Commission also provides Coastwest Grants administered by DoP. Coastwest grants support eligible land managers and community organisations to undertake projects that manage and enhance Western Australia's coast through rehabilitation, restoration and preventative actions. www.planning.wa.gov.au/coastwest.asp

Royalties for Regions may also be able to fund projects. Royalties for regions provides investment for regionally beneficial projects through State Government agencies and the States nine Regional Development Commissions. For further information please visit www.drd.wa.gov.au/rfr/whatisrfr/Pages/default.aspx

5. What projects does DoT fund through its CAP grants?

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. 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 cause 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, seawall) 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.



6. When are temporary coastal erosion management measures suitable?

Temporary coastal management measures are often required when local coastal managers consider there to be imminent threat to local values and assets, or there is an emergency where human life is at risk. Effective temporary management allows time for long term sustainable management approaches to be developed and implemented, without limiting future management options.

Temporary works are only advised when the value of the public assets (economic, social and/ or environmental values) is greater than the cost of the works. Local coastal managers are responsible for initiating and managing the temporary works. DoT provides technical advice and assistance when and where resources permit.

Sacrificial sand nourishment is often a suitable temporary erosion measure when required to act immediately however it should be considered in combination with other potential temporary erosion measures. The nature of the hazard being experienced and the site specific conditions require consideration to determine and implement a suitable temporary erosion measure.

7. Our public coastal assets are at imminent threat of being affected or have been recently affected by a coastal hazard what can we do?

The Department provides technical advice and assistance when and where resources permit. Please contact the DoT on 9435 7545 or coastalmanagement@transport.wa.gov.au to discuss your situation further.

DoT also maintains a list of useful references and resources that could assist. For further information about specific queries related to coastal hazards and coastal management contact DoT.

References

Harvey, N. & Caton, B (2010) Coastal Management in Australia. University of Adelaide Press.

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