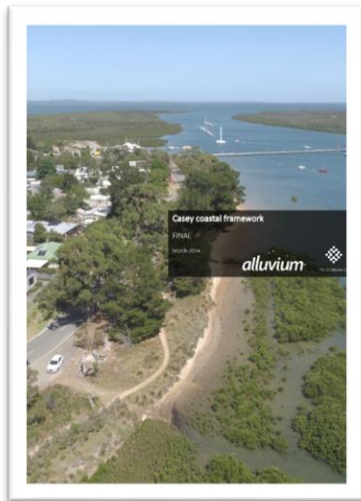


Draft Casey Coastal Framework

Community Engagement Summary Report
May – June 2024

1 Project background



The City of Casey has prepared the draft Casey Coastal Framework to proactively plan for changing coastal conditions and increase the resilience of Casey's coastal areas.

The draft Framework provides an assessment of coastal hazard risk for the Casey coastal region and its communities. This includes when and where risk of coastal hazards, such as inundation (flooding) and erosion, may occur and what values and assets may be impacted.

The finalised Framework will guide Council's approach for managing and adapting to coastal hazards. Combining technical and strategic work with local knowledge, views and ideas, we will be using an evidence-based approach to shape how we manage these important areas into the future.

2 Engagement purpose

The purpose of the second phase of community consultation was to share findings from the assessment, ask people their thoughts on different aspects of coastal hazard adaptation, and provide the draft Casey Coastal Framework to community and stakeholders for public comment.

Findings shared from the draft Framework included maps of coastal hazard extents across the region and township areas of Casey, as well as township summary findings related to Casey's four coastal communities.



Figure 1. Findings presented to the communities: township summaries of Casey's four coastal communities (left) and regional and township hazard map extracts (right).

Feedback received during this engagement period has informed refinement and finalisation of the draft Coastal Framework. It will also help to inform the next stages in hazard adaptation planning, such as determining specific adaptation options and actions for the Casey coastal region.

3 Engagement process

Our second round of community engagement and consultation for the Casey Coastal Framework project ran from 9 May until 7 June 2024. This tailored communication and engagement process involved several different methods and activities to both inform and obtain feedback from our community and stakeholders on the draft Framework.

These included:



Providing online information through the Councils engagement platform, *Casey Conversations*



An online survey on coastal hazard impacts, adaptation and the draft Casey Coastal Framework



The opportunity to submit written statements on the draft Framework



In-person community events, held in Blind Bight and Tooradin

Throughout the engagement process, we heard from and received:

1,171 Visits to , Casey Conversations

6 People submitted **written statements**

897 **Visitors** to Casey Conversations – with one in ten returning for a second visit

223 **Downloads** of the draft Casey Coastal Framework

7 **Surveys** completed

587 **Downloads** of coastal hazard maps and township summaries

In-person events

We hosted two in person events in the coastal townships of Blind Bight and Tooradin where people were able to see maps and summaries, speak with the project team about the draft Framework findings, ask any questions they had, and discuss various aspects of coastal hazard adaptation in the Casey region.

Submissions

We also received a number of formal submissions from management agencies, interest groups and residents, who took the time to provide us with well-considered feedback and suggestions on the draft Framework.

Media coverage

The release and findings of the draft Framework was reported on by *The Age* newspaper, reaching a wide audience and prompting online discussion between readers. The City of Casey's social media platforms also provided an opportunity for people to share their views and learn more about coastal hazards and the draft Framework.



Figure 2. In-person engagement event at the Tooradin Sports Club [Credit: Alluvium].



Figure 3. Tooradin resident Di Loft on the foreshore of the town [Credit: Chris Hopkins; Source: theage.com.au].

4 What we heard

We heard a range of thoughts and perspectives from our community and stakeholders during the engagement period. Discussions and responses were synthesised in in key themes, presented below.

4.1 How do you see yourself being impacted by coastal hazards?

We asked people to consider how they might be impacted by coastal hazards in the future. Common sentiments shared were:



Loss of biodiversity and environmental values



Clean up and damage post climate hazard events and financial implications (public and private)



Impacts to private property – including hazard damages, house prices, insurances



Functionality of services and facilities; loss of sense of community



Access to townships / homes



Decline in wellbeing and quality of life

4.2 We use adaptation to help manage coastal hazard impacts.

-Which approaches would you like Council to consider?

-Which might you consider undertaking on your own property?

Respondents put forward a range of approaches they would either consider themselves or would like to see Council consider in proactively adapting to coastal hazards.



Planning controls

- Council to advocate for State-led planning reforms to address coastal and catchment climate hazard impacts (incl. sea level rise)
- Review of current planning controls applied within Casey's coastal areas and undertake planning scheme amendments where necessary

Emergency planning and services

- Emergency preparedness - sandbags, alternate storage for assets
- Improve / update acute emergency services



Design and engineering

- Resilient and sustainable design
- Nature-base solutions (e.g. revegetation of coastal saltmarsh)
- Engineered solutions (e.g. seawalls, barrages)

Relocation

- Move away or sell
- Make space for nature / coastal processes



Capacity building and incentivisation

- Capacity building - community education opportunities
- Incentivisation schemes (financial) for adaptation / resilience

The Casey region contains many natural defences to coastal hazards in the form of its mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrasses. Of note, many people told us they recognised these nature-based solutions as important for mitigating the impacts of erosion and storm tide flooding, and highly valued them for increasing resilience of Casey's coastal areas.

4.3 How would you like to be involved in adaptation to coastal hazards in the Casey region?

Many respondents stated they would like to be involved in adaptation planning, with clear support for regular and ongoing updates on the potential risks and impacts of coastal hazards for the region. There was also strong sentiment for increased local data and monitoring, particularly water levels, so we can better understand local conditions and change, and use this to inform evidenced-based decision making specifically for the Casey region. Ongoing collaboration between land managers was also highlighted as critical to managing coastal values and assets.

Methods such as ongoing information sessions, information mail outs, local newspaper content, and information shared through *Casey Conversations* were suggestions put forward to facilitate this involvement.

4.4 Sentiments shared on the draft Casey Coastal Framework

When directly considering the draft Framework, community members and broader stakeholders took the time to provide us with a range of comments and suggestions:

General comments:

- Provides a comprehensive and measured approach for proactively developing adaptation options
- Is a timely piece of work in response to high risks faced in the Casey coastal region to climate change impacts
- Includes consideration of local cultural landscapes, and support and respect for Traditional knowledges and practices of First Nations peoples
- Aligns well with state legislation and policy

Suggestions:

- Follow on work to include detailed implementation plans with specific actions and timelines, both regional and tailored to township locations
- Ensure future adaptation options and actions consider community views and the importance and significance of coastal areas to the greater Casey region
- Consider resilience and adaptation potential within the urban environment, including green infrastructure (e.g. urban greening, permeable surfaces) and climate responsive design (e.g. native vegetation, water-efficient landscaping)
- Demonstrate clearer integration with broader Victorian and regional coastal strategies and management plans

5 Next steps

We thank those who have contributed to this stage of the Casey Coastal Framework project.

The draft Framework is now being finalised, with feedback received from community members, interest groups, and management agencies considered. The information provided will also be used to inform our future management approach (adaptation options, actions, and pathways) to reduce the level of risk we experience as our coast changes.

Council will consider the findings of the second phase of community consultation and the proposed Casey Coastal Framework for adoption at the August 2024 Council Meeting.