

SA Climate Ready Coasts

Three levels of government working together to accelerate coastal hazard adaptation



Managing worsening coastal risks

Coastal hazards, especially flooding and erosion, present major disaster risks for South Australia. Our state has over 5000km of varied and dynamic coastline, and more than 90% of the state's population, critical infrastructure, and economic base are located on or near the coast. Half (34) of South Australia's councils are coastal.

In the context of increasing coastal hazards and sea level rise, SA Climate Ready Coasts (CRC) was initiated to accelerate coastal hazard adaptation planning and action.

The premise of CRC is that minimising the costs and impacts of accelerating coastal hazards requires strategic, systemic and urgent action, and all levels of government benefit from this work being undertaken in a consistent and well-coordinated manner.

Working together to drive systemic change

Led by LGA South Australia, in partnership with the Coast Protection Board, Department for Environment and Water, SA Coastal Councils Alliance and Adelaide Coastal Councils Network, a coordinated approach is underway to improve data, monitoring, planning, technical support and capacity building.

The CRC has strengthened the strategic framework for coastal adaptation in SA, modernised key data, supported CHAP development, and enhanced collaboration across all levels of government.



Deliverables from the CRC program include Coastal Hazard Adaptation Planning Guidelines co-created by local and state government, and a Statewide Coastal Erosion Hazard Assessment.

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Specific achievements include:

- Development of new Coastal Hazard Adaptation Planning Guidelines to underpin robust, evidence based and consistent approaches
- Maintaining a suite of compendiums, templates and support resources (in addition to the Guidelines)
- \$1.45M in grants to resource councils to develop and implement CHAPs
- Investment in coastal hazard data and monitoring infrastructure, including a new statewide coastal erosion hazard assessment and a network of new wave buoys and tide gauges
- Development of a prototype Prioritisation Framework that ranks adaptation actions across the state in a defensible matter
- Extensive engagement of local and state government officers with coastal management responsibilities to co-design the program deliverables
- Capacity building of coastal practitioners to equip them with the knowledge and skills to manage escalating coastal risks
- Establishing strong partnerships and governance that play to respective roles, responsibilities and strengths of local and state government.

Next steps

Our current priorities include supporting councils to deliver coastal hazard adaptation planning projects, additional coastal data acquisition, establishing a CHAP Review Panel, and finding the best ways to sustain the momentum of the program beyond 2026.

Funding acknowledgement

The SA Climate Ready Coasts program is funded by:

- Australian government: Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program
- State government: SA Coast Protection Board
- Local government: Local Government Research and Development Scheme