

Our Coast. Our Future.



Project Update 18 December 2020 | Coastal Adaptation Survey

Summary

The second Our Coast, Our Future Survey was designed to assess the community's understanding of, and preferences for, different adaptation options to mitigate coastal hazard risk.

Highlights from the survey include:

- Young people (under 18 years) were the highest proportion of respondents
- Respondents had a high degree of familiarity with different adaptation options and were most familiar with dune protection and maintenance
- Four out of five (80%) of respondents felt that the most important consideration when selecting a coastal hazard adaptation option was the impact it may have on environmental and ecological values
- Most respondents felt that it was likely that additional adaptation options would be necessary in the future
- Respondents rated dune protection and maintenance as the most suitable adaptation option, followed by beach nourishment and land use planning.

As part of the *Our Coast. Our Future* program, a coastal adaptation survey was conducted from September through to October 2020. The 10-minute survey involved a series of closed and open questions designed to assess the community's understanding of, and preferences for, different [adaptation options](#) to mitigate [coastal hazard](#) risk.

Who responded to the survey?

A total of 87 responses were received, with the **largest proportion of respondents being under 18 years of age** (56%; see Figure 1). This was driven by a number of successful engagement events with local schools.

Six respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Over half of respondents (60%) live within 5km of the coast. Agnes Water and Tannum Sands were the most frequently visited coastal locations.

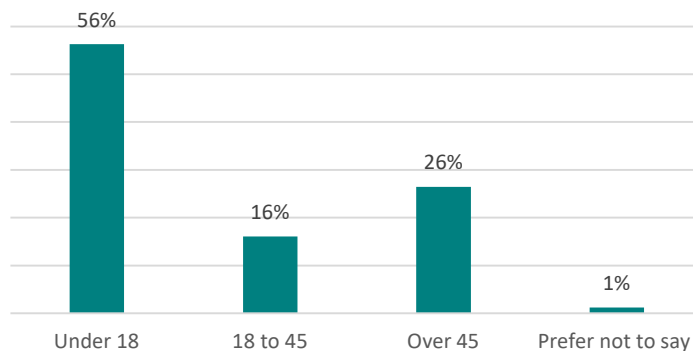


Figure 1 Proportion of survey respondents by age group (n = 87)

Are the community familiar with coastal adaptation options?

Around **75% of respondents** felt they have a **fair to good understanding of potential adaptation options** to mitigate coastal hazard risk. Respondents were presented with various coastal adaptation options and asked whether they were familiar with any of the options. **Respondents were most familiar with dune protection and maintenance and least familiar with other structures to limit wave impacts such as artificial reefs.**

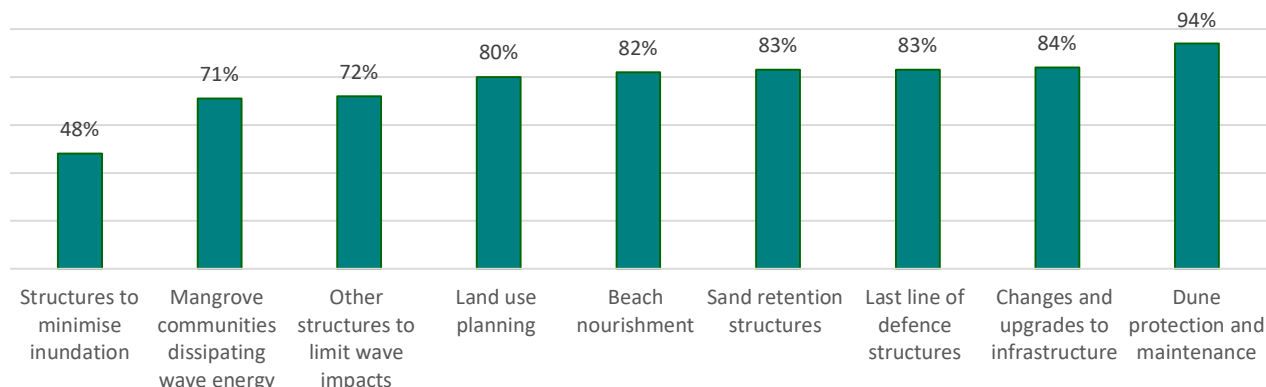


Figure 2 Proportion of respondents familiar with adaptation options (n = 87)

What are the most important considerations when selecting coastal hazard adaptation options?

Four out of five (80%) of respondents felt the most important consideration when selecting a coastal hazard adaptation option **was the impact it may have on environmental and ecological values.** The next most important considerations were impacts on culture and heritage and retaining the natural beauty of the coast. Respondents felt that the **least important factor to consider was the visual appeal.** Respondents under 18 years were more likely to nominate the impact on cultural and heritage, compared to adult respondents. Other considerations raised included concerns about ongoing/long term maintenance, the impact it may have on coral and the impacts of structural-based adaptation options.

"That it doesn't wreck the natural ecosystem that exists in Gladstone."

Tannum Sands Resident, Under 18 years

"Protecting the environment in the most natural way possible rather than introducing things such as rock wall or moving sand from other areas I believe is unnecessary"

Agnes Waters Resident, ATSI, Under 18 years

How likely will coastal hazard adaptation be required in the future?

Most respondents felt that additional adaptation options would be necessary; **more than 70% of respondents thought it was 'likely' or 'very likely'.** Young respondents, however, were less likely to think that coastal hazards adaptation would be required in the future when compared to the adult respondents.

What is the suitability of proposed adaptation options?

Respondents rated **dune protection and maintenance** as the most suitable adaptation option, followed by beach nourishment and land use planning. **Less favourable options for mitigating coastal hazard risk were structures to minimise inundation, last line of defence structures (e.g. seawalls) and sand retention structures (e.g. groynes).** Other adaptation options that respondents suggested included artificial reefs, dredging activities, relocating at-risk infrastructure.



Figure 2a. Structures to minimise inundation



Figure 2b. Dune protection and maintenance