



Our Ref: D-19-015249
Your Ref:
File Ref: GR/11/0017
Enquiries: Ross McKim

5 March 2019

Hon Mark McGowan MLA
Premier
5th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Premier

STATE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR COASTAL EROSION ISSUES – CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON

The purpose of this letter is to seek formal advice from the State Government as to its position on the provision of financial support to the City of Greater Geraldton for the implementation of Coastal Erosion Adaptation measures identified in accordance with State Coastal Planning Policy No. 2.6 gazetted by the Western Australian State Government in 2013.

Over the last three years, the City of Greater Geraldton has been working towards compliance with the requirements of State Coastal Planning Policy No. 2.6 with respect to developing and implementing Coastal Hazard Risk Management Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP). This has been a complex project balancing engineering outcomes with the State's planning policy and the sentiments of the local community that use and live near the Geraldton coastline. It has also been an expensive and time consuming project that has a great deal of community interest in its outcome, which is reflected by the volume of community feedback received and members of the community who attend council meetings when this topic is on the agenda.

At its Ordinary Meeting of 27 November 2018, the Council endorsed the following recommendation:

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 5.20 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. *ADOPT the final draft Geraldton Coastal Adaptation Risk Management and Adaptation Planning report as a guiding document;*
2. *DIRECT the CEO to undertake further geophysical investigations of the shoreline areas in Drummond Cove, Sunset Beach and Bluff Point;*
3. *DIRECT the CEO to undertake coastal monitoring of the beach at Drummond Cove and investigate medium-term coastal adaptation options at Sunset Beach outlined in M P Rogers Sunset Beach Adaptation Options Advice (Attachment No. IS185I);*





4. *DIRECT the CEO to seek formal advice from the State Government on its position with respect to the future funding of coastal protection works; and*
5. *DIRECT the CEO to initiate Stage 3 of the Coastal Adaptation Process flowchart – local coastal planning policy.*

The project has been guided by a committee that included State Government officers from various departments. A copy of this Council report along with the CHRMAP reports are available on the City's website at <https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/ordinary-meeting-of-council-27-november-2018/137>. The completion of the CHRMAP report means the project is now entering stage three which involves developing local coastal planning policies that provide the community with advice on how the coast line will be managed. A critical aspect of this decision making process (option selection) concerns what funds are available to implement the program.

The State Government chose not to financially support coastal works associated with the renewal of the Point Moore leases. The City would like to know if this is the State's position on the remainder of the Geraldton coastline prior to entering into the community consultation required in stage three. It is important that the City be provided with clear guidance on this matter from the State, as we in turn want to provide clear guidance to the community. The City has been expending over 30 percent of its annual new capital works program funds on this issue over the last three years and will continue with this level of funding for the next five years at least. However, the City is not in a financial position to undertake the significant coastal protection works required and would need State Government support to implement these measures. An example would be the construction of coastal protection works at Drummond Cove that would be able to also include a boat ramp to resolve current issues associated with boat ramp use. The recreation boating facilities scheme grant is not sufficiently large to enable this project to proceed.

Your prompt attention to this matter would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Shane Van Styn
MAYOR