

WAMBERAL BEACH EROSION

Frequently Asked Questions

- community members



Who is responsible for the emergency response?

The NSW Government has appointed a Recovery Coordinator, Ms Lee Shearer, to oversee the recovery. Council will work with the Coordinator.

Council is undertaking emergency remediation works at Wamberal Beach in consultation with expert coastal engineers.

What is Council doing about coastal erosion? Why couldn't something be done sooner?

The management of coastal erosion by Central Coast Council is guided by the management actions within the Certified Gosford Open Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan 2017 (including the Emergency Action Sub-Plan for Wamberal). This document also outlines the responsibilities of local, state and private landholders in the implementation and funding of identified management actions on lands under the varying ownerships. Council is currently working through the priority management actions identified within this plan, supported by funding through the Coast and Estuaries Grants Program.

In response to the current coastal erosion event, Council has engaged leading coastal engineering consultancy Royal Haskoning DHV which is providing emergency remediation works at Wamberal Beach. These works are now possible as Council has received the required direction by the Local Emergency Operations Controller and also received the advice from expert coastal engineers from the Public Works Authority.

In May this year, Council engaged Manly Hydraulics Laboratory to prepare concept plans for a terminal protection structure at Wamberal

to assist residents in implementing a long-term solution. This is part funded by Council and the NSW Government through the Coast and Estuary Grants Program at a total cost of approximately \$400,000. It will include workshops with residents and key stakeholders and the concept design is expected to be completed late 2020.

Council is also preparing Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) in accordance with the NSW Coastal Management Framework for the entire Central Coast. These will be completed prior to the end of 2021. As part of the CMP process, Council will be undertaking significant consultation with our community to finalise the programs.

For further history on coastal erosion management at Wamberal Beach visit centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/Wamberal-revetment-wall

For further information on coastal erosion management for the Coast visit centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/environment/coastlines/coastal-zone-management

How many properties have been impacted and what assistance is being provided to residents?

43 residences are impacted with approximately 54 residents evacuated.

All affected residents have been contacted by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and provided with assistance.

Can I visit the impacted area?

If you do not need to be in the area or any other beach area where barriers are in place, PLEASE stay away. Sightseers and other non-resident or non-essential visitors make it difficult for residents and essential services to do their work

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safely and effectively. They also endanger their own and others' safety if they enter or go near eroded areas. They also cause unnecessary traffic which can hinder essential services' access to the area.

Do not try to breach any beach access barriers, especially those to the impacted beach area below the buildings at Wamberal. You will endanger not only yourself but may create further damage to the weakened dune system.

To stay up-to-date on the situation as it evolves, visit centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/coastal-erosion.

If Council has to cover the cost of any remediation to the beach at Wamberal or North Entrance how will this affect my rates? Do I have to pay for it even though I am not affected?

Rates are levied on the land value (as determined by the Valuer General) of the property and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. External influences such as severe weather do not impact residents' rates.

Council held an Extraordinary Meeting on 20 July 2020 and has called on the State Government to declare a natural disaster for our region which will enable affected residents to seek assistance and support to recover, while Council would be able to access funds to repair infrastructure impacted by the storms.

What is happening with asbestos on the beach at Wamberal? Who is the responsible authority? Have you then buried asbestos on the beach?

Council proactively manages asbestos risks on public land across the Coast. The building waste being exposed in Wamberal due to the current severe weather is from private property. Our teams are onsite daily and as part of our storm recovery actions we are clearing any debris that presents in public areas.

Since the community first reported asbestos findings in Wamberal and Terrigal beaches in 2018, Council has been actively monitoring the areas and removing any and all asbestos found on public land. With the assistance of environmental specialist consultants, Council also excavated test pits and undertook air quality monitoring along Terrigal and Wamberal Beaches, confirming that the risk to public health was, and still is, considered by experts to be low. Air quality monitoring failed to record any airborne asbestos fibres at these locations.

Since, 2018, Council has been undertaking targeted inspections of these beaches multiple times every week, removing all material observed and recording details on each occasion. The amount of material observed over this period has notably decreased.

Any other questions or feedback?

Please contact Council on 1300 463 954 during business hours.