



Snapshot

Peron Naturaliste Partnership: Involving communities in coastal risk management

Summary

The Peron Naturaliste Partnership (PNP), a collaboration of nine local governments in the southwest of Western Australia, is well advanced in its coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning. The group has completed erosion and inundation hazard mapping as well as a study that identified the economic value of the assets at risk. However, this work did not include any community engagement. A project to address this gap is underway, and includes a planning stage and an implementation stage. [CoastAdapt's](#) guidance on community engagement was used to support the planning stage of this work. By providing information about the engagement required at the various stages of adaptation planning, the information in C-CADS helped to contextualise the work that was done and to ensure it was fit for purpose.

Keywords

Adaptation planning, coastal values, community engagement, C-CADS, test case

The Peron-Naturaliste Partnership (PNP) was formed in 2011 as a collaboration of the nine local governments between Cape Peron and Cape Naturaliste in south-west Western Australia (WA). The nine councils have recognised the potential vulnerability of the region's coastline to the impacts of climate change – notably sea-level rise and increased storm activity, which cause increased coastal erosion and inundation.

The WA Planning Commission's (WAPC) State Planning Policy (SPP) 2.6 – State Coastal Planning Policy (Western Australian Government 2013) requires all coastal local governments to undertake coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning (CHRMAP). A six-step process is recommended: establish the context, identify risks/assess vulnerability, determine likelihood, determine consequences, evaluate risk, and plan adaptation. In addition, continual community engagement and monitoring of impacts is required throughout the process and as part of the implementation of the adaptation plan.

PNP has been a leader in WA in developing CHRMAPs for each local government. This has meant carrying out a range of projects with funding support from both the State and Commonwealth governments. Importantly, PNP has completed three relevant projects: erosion and inundation hazard mapping for the whole coast; a Commonwealth government-funded study on adaptation pathways and options; and scoping the economic outcomes that can be achieved from effective adaptation and investment (ACIL Tasman 2012).

The key findings of the economic study were:

- the value of the affected assets along this section of coastline is approximately \$1.2 billion
- approximately \$1.1 billion of assets can be saved at a cost of around \$120 million.

Two significant shortcomings of this work were that it did not include any community engagement, and the economic analysis did not consider social and environmental values of the affected coast. Further work was required to identify the full range of values of the coast and to involve the community in that process.

The PNP is now undertaking a project to address the issue of coastal values. This involves establishing a community engagement process to gain a better understanding of what communities currently value on the coast, and how these values may be impacted as a result of climate change. The information gathered will be used to inform the preparation of adaptation plans for each local government area within the PNP. This project is funded by WAPC's Coastal Management Plan Assistance Program grant scheme. It has the specific aim of identifying the full spectrum of coastal values and is the first of its kind in WA.

The project is being undertaken by consultants and is steered by a committee of officers from the PNP local governments. The project has two stages:

- **Stage 1** is the initial planning stage where the consultant works with the steering group and the project officers to agree on the details of the engagement process, including any specific requirements, data or questions that need to be covered or collected
- **Stage 2** is the implementation of the agreed process.

Information and guidance from CoastAdapt was used to complete Stage 1.

The project is focussing on three case study beaches to enable the community engagement process to be trialed, improved and finalised before it is more widely applied in the region. The three beaches were selected because they have different characteristics and uses; therefore they are likely to have a range of different values to the community. These are Waikiki foreshore in Rockingham (see Figure 1), Back Beach in Bunbury (see Figure 2), and Old Dunsborough boat ramp in Busselton.

The predominant values of the three beaches used in the study are shown below:

Waikiki - a mix of natural and high recreational and cultural values. This beach is also adjacent to a tourism and commercial area. The beach is well protected and is a popular family swimming beach.

Back Beach - significant recreational value with residential areas adjacent to the foreshore - i.e. significant property protection value. The road parallel to the beach is an important regional road. The beach is a popular surfing and swimming beach.

Old Dunsborough - a mix of both natural values, with undisturbed beach and dunes, and high recreational value due to its boat ramp.



Figure 1: Waikiki foreshore in Rockingham. Photo: © Garry Middle.



Figure 2: Works in Back Beach, Bunbury. Photo: © Garry Middle.

A Communication and Engagement Plan was developed to support the overall process. The plan was developed using material from the consultant and from the CoastAdapt [Community Engagement Information Manual](#). The plan outlines the approach that has been developed for the trial and identifies key messages to be delivered to stakeholders.

Three community engagement approaches will be used in the trial. These include:

- community information sessions
- community beach users surveys
- community scenario planning workshops.

The planning for each of these activities will be based around guidance from CoastAdapt.

The Communication and Engagement Plan includes an implementation or action plan (Stage 2), with a completion date of June 2018. The C-CADS framework will support the integration of the outcomes of the work into the adaptive adaptation planning cycle, helping to ensure that work is fit for purpose, and will support ongoing adaptation planning.

References

Western Australian Government, 2013: Statement of Planning Policy No. 2.6: State Coastal Planning Policy, Prepared under Section 5AA of the Planning and Development Act 2005. Western Australian Government Gazette 136: pp. 3509-3523.

ACIL Tasman, 2012: Climate change adaptation options assessment: Developing flexible adaptation pathways for the Peron-Naturaliste Coastal Region of Western Australia. Melbourne, Peron-Naturaliste Partnership. Accessed 9 June 2017. [Available online at https://www.google.com.au/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0a-hUKEwin6oOe0q_UAhWIVbwKHWsqAS0QFg-giMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bunbury.wa.gov.au%2Fpdf%2FPlanning%2520and%2520Building%2FPNPAassessmentReport.pdf&usg=AFQjC-NEbQLRtque_M29jZFfDE6Q51SnnA&sig2=WYWN-7UoNnTnti9FVVOi6yw&cad=rja].

Further reading

An NCCARF Adaptation Good Practice case study based on the PNP project, which also includes a video: <https://www.nccarf.edu.au/localgov/case-study/developing-flexible-adaptation-pathways-peron-naturaliste-coastal-region-western> (accessed 9 June 2017).

The PNP's website on the adaptation pathways and options project: <http://www.peronnaturaliste.org.au/projects/caps-project/> (accessed 9 June 2017).

This Snapshot was prepared by Garry Middle of VisionEnvironment as part of a series of test cases conducted to assess CoastAdapt's performance and utility in real life adaptation situations. A special acknowledgement goes to Joanne Ludbrook from the City of Mandurah who also contributed valuable feedback to the test case.

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