

# What should we consider in adapting to sea-level rise?

## 1 To adapt, we can:



### Avoid

Identify future 'no-build areas' and use planning tools to prevent new development in areas at risk now or in future



### Accommodate

Continue to use the land but accommodate changes by building on piles, converting agriculture to fish farming or growing flood- or salt-tolerant crops



### Protect

Use hard structures (eg sea walls) or soft solutions (eg dunes and vegetation) to protect land from the sea. May be prohibitively expensive, especially in the long term



### Retreat

Withdraw, relocate or abandon assets that are at risk; ecosystems are allowed to retreat landward as sea levels rise

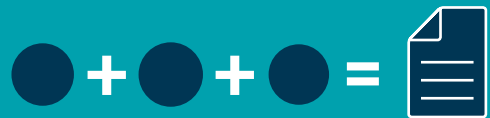


### Attack

Reclaim land; used in areas of very high land values (eg The Netherlands, Hong Kong, Singapore). Generally not appropriate for Australia and has large economic and environmental costs



## 2 These options can be combined to develop a plan of action.



## 3 Choices will need to consider:

### Cost of response



Low – high  
Potential cost to government and regulators

### Cost of avoided impacts

(including social and environmental costs and benefits as well as economic ones)



### Use of the land

(including its strategic importance, for example as an airport, defence, port facility etc)



### Value of the land and its assets

(including ecosystem service, amenity, historical, cultural values)



### Length of protection



Short- to long-term protection