The status of coastal planning in WA
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• DISCLAIMER: Views expressed are my own and not those of the WAPC or the WA Government

• A story of 5 missing links
1. Governance
Historic context

- 2002 Ministerial Taskforce report
- 2003 Government response
  - Coastal Planning & Management fits within Planning
  - No need for separate coastal legislation
  - Establishment of Coastal Planning Coordination Council (CPCC), as a statutory committee of the WAPC
    - independent chair
    - State & Local Government, community and industry
- Most coastal foreshore vested in local government
CPCC

- CPCC has not met since 2012, and its membership has lapsed
- March 2016, Cabinet establish the Coastal Management Advisory Group (CMAG),
  - an interagency working group led by the Department of Planning Land and Heritage
  - WALGA but no local government
  - No community or industry
2. Policy
Coastal Zone Management Policy for Western Australia

For Public Comment

Never finalised

Prepared by

Western Australian Planning Commission
Albert Facey House
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January 2001
Never finalized although
Key elements integrated into
Perth’s Directions 2013
SPP 2.6

• 2006 first version of Coastal State Planning Policy – 2.6
• Revised SPP 2.6 2013 with strengthened climate change provisions
• SPPs
  – Statutory – Part 3 of Act
  – Facilitates coordinated local government planning
  – Local Planning and notion of ‘due regard’ for SPPs
The key elements of the SPP

• Public interest;
• Coastal setbacks;
• Plan for 0.9m sea level rise by 2010
• Coastal foreshore and public ownership
• Planning with uncertainty
  – Precautionary principle;
• Requirement for coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning (CHRMAP);
Hazard risk assessment and adaptation

- Adequate coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning required
- “Where a coastal hazard risk is identified it should be disclosed to those likely to be affected.”
Adaptation hierarchy

- Avoid
- Planned or Managed Retreat
- Accommodation
- Defend or protect
Coastal zones are vulnerable to adverse impacts from inundation and erosion. The risk to the environment from climate change is influenced by the level of preparedness and response of the community and its recovery capacity.
Planning process

1. Establish context – objectives and effectiveness indicators
2. Risk identification – what natural and built assets at risk
3. Risk analysis – likelihood (high, medium, low) and consequences
4. Risk Evaluation – establish level of tolerable risk, identify existing mitigation measures
5. Risk treatment – identify measures to reduce risk to tolerable; Costs and benefits of measures; Trigger level of change
6. Implementation of agreed strategies

Community engagement

Monitoring & review
Work to date

• 30+ CHRMAPs underway, partially complete or complete
  – Single whole of local governments;
  – Partnerships (3)
  – Hot spot locations
• Most about the CHRMs few APs
• 15+ supporting studies e.g. LiDAR
First two of the missing links

• Adaptation hierarchy
  – Avoid
  – Planned or Managed Retreat
  – Accommodation
  – Defend or protect

• CHRM …Values… AP

Effective community engagement
1. Avoid

Infill/re-development – little policy development here

Third missing link
2. Planned or managed retreat
3. Accommodate

- Mostly about storm surge not erosion
- Little action here

Forth missing link
SPP & Defend - protection works

• General presumption against new coastal protection works
• Significant works on existing coastal protection works to be considered new coastal protection works.
WA Coastal Zone Strategy

August 2017
Key elements

• Beyond Planning
  – “Stewardship of the coast is a shared responsibility with State and local government, public and private organisations, community groups and individuals all playing an important role.”

• Vision, goals and objectives
  – Environment
  – Community
  – Economy
  – Infrastructure
  – Governance
Key issues

• 9 Key issues including climate change
• Coastal hazard risk and liability
  – “State and local governments are not legally obliged to protect private property or State land against the impact of erosion and inundation. There is an ongoing responsibility to maintain protective structures following construction.”
3. Government Grants
Three State grant programs

- Coastal Management Plan Assistance Program (CMPAP) - $300-400K
  - Focus on CHRMAP
- CoastWest – implementation and within approved plans - $300-400K
- Coastal Adaptation and Protection – DoT
  - funding coastal adaptation works - $300K
- Total ~ $1million
4. Other work
Assessment of Coastal Erosion Hotspots in Western Australia

For the Department of Transport and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

Will inform grant programs
My cost estimate – several 10s of millions of dollars

Fifth missing link
Coastal Values – missing link

Non-market valuation instruments for measuring community values affected by coastal hazards and their management

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Coastal Values Project
Draft

Planned or Managed Retreat Guidelines

August 2017

A how to guide without resources to do it
Community engagement – 2nd missing link

• CHRM to Aps
• Why not keep on the Engineer?
• Need guidance on best practice
5. 2017 State Coastal & NRM conference
Workshop “What is the future of coastal planning and management in WA?”
Key issues

1. Engage with community for better understanding of coastal values to build a positive cultural change in community attitudes towards the coast
2. Dedicated coastal legislation needed
3. Specific tools are needed to compliment the CHRMAP process and to better engage the community
4. SPP 2.6 needs to be reviewed
5. A strategic approach is needed for data collection
6. Resource deficit **Fifth missing link**
The Fiscal/responsibility imbalance

- Commonwealth Government
- State Government
- Local Government
6. Failure of policy
Seabird