

TDC – Coastal Management Project webinar. 30th Sept 2021

Facilitated by Nicole Taher, Dr Rob Bell [National Coastal scientist], Glen Stevens [Nat hazards scientist] Diana Worthy [TDC Project lead]

Key messages:

- **Background:** Sea level rises/ coastal hazard conversations commenced in Tasman in 2019 to tie Golden Bay/Tasman together. Sea level [SL] has been rising since 1900 with a current acceleration i.e. 0.2m higher than 1920's. the most obvious signs being – more 'sunny day flooding' with King tides, increasing nuisance flooding & more extreme events such as Fehi. Obvious we need to adapt – *like an overflowing bathtub – we need to manage the unavoidable*. Difficult to second guess 2050 or 2100 – so need to plan for a range of SL rise scenarios.
- **Tasman coastline** spans 700km+; with varied topography; has & will expect impacts of coastal hazards; decisions made will affect generations to come. Scenarios such as a 2m SL rise would see 84% of Tasman affected especially rural land; 8,400 people within low lying coastal areas [approx. 11% in Mapua area] 5500 buildings incl council infrastructure; 160 km of roads; most of our reserves & public land e.g Abel Tasman Nat Park; archaeological & historic sites & buildings, plantings, ecological & culturally important sites; etc.
- **Implications?** Coastal wildlife habitats; property insurance; banks i.e mortgages; access to beaches; rezoning land; removing/ relocating buildings [new RMA] ; retreat incentives?; re current development vulnerabilities e.g lower Queen Street industrial area; retreat examples are small in NZ e.g surf club relocation; soft protection e.g little Kaiteriteri are short term & costly.
- Nothing has been decided with regard to the '**high level**' **suggested options** – which fall broadly into four categories – accommodate/ protect/ avoid/ retreat?
 - **Accommodate:** is relevant particularly to existing & new development with short-, medium- & long-term solutions needed. Eg. Adjusting existing assets; raising ground/ floor level requirements; insisting new builds are relocatable.
 - **Avoid:** stop putting people & assets in harms way; using land use planning resources such as FDS.
 - **Protect:** ' Hold the line' – invest in short/medium interventions such as soft protections [sand planting] or hard protections – such as sea walls/stop banks
 - **Retreat:** Moving existing people and assets away from coast. e.g Motueka sewerage inland. Issues are complex & challenging.

TDC are calling on local communities for feedback on these four options & welcome alternative views and ideas.

Visit : www.tasman.govt/coastal-management

Feedback closes on 15 October 2021

Esmé Palliser