

[Eastern Beaches Protection Association Inc.](http://www.ebpa.com.au)

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EBPA joins effort to find sensible fixes to Noosa CHAP

The Eastern Beaches Protection Association (EBPA) will work together with other community groups and Noosa Shire Council at a series of regular roundtable meetings on practical solutions to address resident and ratepayer concerns with the draft Noosa Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan (CHAP).

EBPA has accepted Council's invitation to the meetings and will put forward workable fixes based on science, actual risk probability and the lessons of CHAP in other Queensland coastal council areas.

Those include:

- Refocussing solutions where erosion problems are most clear by ensuring the CHAP focuses more on practical beach and waterway erosion control and inundation management.
- Dealing with acknowledged limitations in the CHAP model by proposing more investment in scientifically robust monitoring of areas like dunes to better quantify dune movement.
- Removing unjustified extreme, socially and economically costly prescriptions harming homes based on rare risks admitted by the model of "less than 1 per cent" in 50 to 80 years' time.
- More resources for community and volunteer efforts for dune and waterway revegetation and management.
- A better Council plan to address the most prominent sources of beach and waterway erosion from Council stormwater and sewerage discharge.

EBPA has waited almost three months for Council to answer a series of detailed questions about who knew about a secret pre-emptive letter to the State asking for unjustified adverse planning restrictions before consultation had even occurred.

EBPA spokesperson Minna Knight said the EBPA's approach was based on science, risks and lessons from other Councils which have developed reasonable and practical CHAPs without unreasonably harming homeowners.

"We have been working constructively with local decisionmakers in our effort to promote practical solutions to the serious problems of the current draft CHAP, including the Mayor, Councillors, State MP Sandy Bolton and Federal Member Llew O'Brien," Ms Knight said.

"We've also seen a real groundswell of support emerge, with six other community groups joining our fight to have the CHAP fixed so it protects our beaches and waterways but doesn't harm homes.

"It's also clear now that other Queensland Councils have finalised their own versions of a CHAP - based on the same risk models - and have not needed to go to the extreme lengths that Noosa Council's draft plan proposes to. It proves we have the ability to adjust and amend the draft CHAP to ensure it doesn't hurt homeowners - and actually protects the beaches - before it is too late.

"If Council sticks to its poorly consulted draft, devalues actual beach protection and harms family homes in ways that other Councils have avoided, the damage is costly, long term and does nothing for the environment.

"However, with goodwill from Council and our solutions, we can have a better CHAP."

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