

# Eastern Beaches Protection Association

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## **Resident groups join forces, call for Noosa MP's backing to scrap harsh planning changes**

Seven Noosa resident organisations have banded together to call on Member for Noosa Sandy Bolton to support their fight to fend off rushed and unnecessary planning changes under Council's draft Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan (CHAP).

The united front of concerned residents and ratepayers is the latest in a groundswell of opposition to extreme elements of the CHAP proposal, and comprises:

- Eastern Beaches Protection Association Inc.
- Tewanin Residents
- Noosa North Shore Association Inc
- Peregian Family and Friends
- Noosa Waters Residents Association
- Noosaville and Noosa Sound Residents
- Hilton Terrace Residents Group

In a jointly signed letter to Ms Bolton, the groups warned that flawed assumptions in the CHAP paved the way for pre-emptive and unnecessary planning changes hurting local homeowners.

EBPA spokesperson Minna Knight said the groups believed Council's move to amend its planning scheme - including behind-closed-door discussions between Council and State Government departments - was premature, based on inaccuracies and unsupported by the community.

"The secret, proposed planning changes discussed with the State seven months before residents got the draft CHAP are pre-emptive and based on inaccurate, 'scare' tactic forecasts," Ms Knight said.

"The public has been misled that without these changes, there is a 1-in-100 chance of properties being lost to these as yet theoretical coastal hazards - and that is wrong.

"The fact is, a cumulative range of worst-case scenarios would have to occur simultaneously in 50 to 80 years' time, for properties to potentially face the suggested threats. It's not imminent, immediate or certain.

"There is no good reason for Council to rush through planning changes that would hurt homeowners right now, while nothing is proposed to actually prevent things like beach and creek erosion on public land from Council stormwater and treated sewage that is doing environmental damage right now."

Ms Knight said the groups appreciated Ms Bolton's help to date as well as Council's recent acknowledgement that the CHAP is flawed by extending the process by six months.

"The united resident groups hope Ms Bolton can assist to encourage Council to jettison the unnecessary and pre-emptive, radical planning changes and put more effort into practical erosion and inundation prevention," she said.

"We have years, even decades, to refine models and observe on-ground trends as CHAP and practical measures are implemented and evolve, without risking premature planning changes."

Media contact: Kate Barwick 0408 072 809

[Eastern Beaches Protection Association](http://EasternBeachesProtectionAssociation.com)  
[info@easternbeachesprotectionassociation.com](mailto:info@easternbeachesprotectionassociation.com)