

Eastern Beaches Protection Association Inc.

www.ebpa.com.au

21 July 2021

Secret Council CHAP paper doesn't back immediate planning restrictions on homes

In another blow for Noosa Council's embattled Coastal Hazards planning process, an internal Council options report doesn't recommend the most controversial aspect of Council's draft adaptation plan as a priority.

Eastern Beaches Protection Association spokesperson Minna Knight said the report (***Conclusions table attached***), previously withheld from the community, vindicated EPBA's science-based proposal for climate change management and reinforced there was no need to rush to adverse planning proposals on homes.

"This report looked at a range of possible actions for the Coastal Hazards Adaption Plan (CHAP) coding them as "go" (higher priority), "slow" (lower priority) or "stop" items. A review of the "go" items is very similar to the EBPA's proposed plan to protect our beaches," Ms Knight said.

"Overwhelmingly the recommendation for "go" or higher priority action is dune management, community education and monitoring – which, along with creek mouth management, is similar to what EBPA has consistently argued for, based on the science.

"Unlike the discredited draft CHAP which elevated extreme proposals for adverse planning restrictions on existing family homes - despite a less than 1% hazard risk in 50 - 80 years' time - this previously withheld report said planning and development options like coastal hazard lines for existing homes were lower priority and categorised them as "slow" rather than "go" options.

"Coastal hazard building lines and similar restrictions on existing homes within developed areas were noted as much lower priority with various problems, but overall they weren't regarded as urgent and weren't among the items recommended for further consideration. And they do nothing for the environment at all."

Ms Knight said the report – the second secret document revealed under scrutiny - was buried from the public and only released after EBPA demanded it as part of its participation in the newly formed Roundtable.

"We now have a pattern in Noosa Council's attempt to rush through an unjustified draft CHAP, along with a secret letter revealed under Right to Information that proposed unjustified, adverse planning changes to the State Government seven months before public consultation and contrary to this internal report," she said.

"Somebody decided this report didn't suit their political agenda and they buried it. Then somebody authorised a secret letter to the state government trying to pre-empt adverse planning laws – not supported by this report - seven months before they tried to slam the CHAP through over school holidays.

"Council still won't tell us who knew about the secret letter to the State, but now we also need to know who authorised putting something in the CHAP contrary to this options report. It's stinky and certainly not science.

"It now also helps explain why other Councils using the same models didn't take the extreme approach that Noosa tried to ram through. Other Councils either didn't support extreme planning impacts on existing homes or regarded them as a lower priority action for future review or consideration if needed at all.

"This latest revelation justifies why seven local community organisations across the Shire have distrusted the process and are demanding a much more balanced approach – which the Mayor says she is committed to.

"It's time for Council to admit these adverse planning proposals were unjustifiably pre-empted before the CHAP process was properly undertaken, not supported by actual risk any time soon, if ever, and aren't recommended in Council's internal options report . They need to be abandoned to restore confidence in this tainted process."

Media contact: Kate Barwick 0408 072 809

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

Eastern Beaches Protection Association Inc.

www.ebpa.com.au

Attachment: The Conclusions Table of Council's internal Options Report showing the adaption options items recommended for future consideration in the CHAP process.

The options presented did not include adverse planning restrictions or building lines that were later inserted into the draft CHAP.

The options presented did include a range of measures similar to EBPA's independently recommended plan to save the beaches and waterways through dune management, monitoring to inform future models and managing erosion largely caused by Council's own stormwater system at the creek mouths.

4 Conclusions and Next Steps

4.1 Summary of MCA Outcomes

Coastal hazard adaptation options recommended for further consideration/exploration at localities within Noosa Shire are summarised in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Summary of Adaptation Options Recommended for Further Consideration

Locality	Options for Further Consideration
Peregian to Sunshine Beaches	Active dune and habitat management Manual creek mouth management Community infrastructure management Land buy back Relocate important infrastructure Beach nourishment Dune augmentation Seawalls
Noosa Heads	Design of hazard resilient infrastructure Tide flaps and valves on stormwater pipe network Active dune and habitat management Dune augmentation Improve sand shifter efficiency
Teewah	Active dune and habitat management Land buy back Beach nourishment Dune augmentation Seawalls
Noosaville	Design of hazard resilient infrastructure Tide flaps and valves on stormwater pipe network Raising road levels Levees
Tewantin	Design of hazard resilient infrastructure Tide flaps and valves on stormwater pipe network
Noosa North Shore	Design of hazard resilient infrastructure Reduce intensity of future development
Lake Cootharaba	Design of hazard resilient infrastructure Relocate important infrastructure Land management to support habitat migration