

6.20. QCOAST 2100 PROGRAM ROUND 4 IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

REPORT AUTHOR	Sustainability Officer
MANAGER	Manager Environment and Planning
DEPARTMENT	Environment and Planning
RECOMMENDATION	

That Council:

1. **Retrospectively endorses the Fourmile Beach Esplanade Resilience and Shoreline Erosion Management Plan Development Projects to the QCoast2100 Round 4 Implementation of Coastal Hazard Adaptation Works for funding under the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Efficiencies Funding Program; and**
2. **Acknowledges the requirement to allocate funds within future operational and capital budgets, if successful, for the delivery of the nominated QCoast2100 Round 4 Implementation of Coastal Hazard Adaptation Works funded projects.**
3. **Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all matters associated with the Projects if successful.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority Efficiencies Funding Program is designed to fund strategic risk mitigation and resilience activities that will create stronger, safer and more resilient Queensland Communities.

The Program's objective is to address the states coastal hazard risk by assisting Council's to implement coastal hazard adaptation works and actions for disaster mitigation through the State Government funded QCoast2100 Program.

The Program is a competitive application-based, merit assessed grant fund open to Queensland Council's that have developed a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS) under the QCoast2100 Program, which has been endorsed by the Council or be well advanced in CHAS development.

Applications that deliver the following will be highly regarded:

- demonstrate innovative and cost-effective solutions, including on ground works;
- emphasise nature-based solutions or solutions with environmental benefits that enhance or preserve the natural character of the coast;
- benefit other councils across the State through joint projects, shared learnings or actions that can inform or provide leading practice examples for other councils; and/or
- leverage QCoast2100 funding through partnerships, joint projects, and high co-contributions.

This report is to endorse the revised projects proposed under the funding allocation. The funding application was workshopped with the Councillors on 31 January 2025.

BACKGROUND

Douglas Shire Council was the first Council in Queensland to develop a CHAS under the QCoast 2100 Program. The Douglas Shire Resilient Coast Strategic Plan 2019-2029 identifies:

- Our coastal hazard areas
- Vulnerabilities and risks to assets
- Adaptation actions, costs, priorities and timeframes for implementation

To support Queensland Council's in the implementation of their CHAS, the QCoast2100 Program releases implementation funding. Applications must complement existing state mitigation programs, address the state's assessed natural hazard risks, reduce the requirement for future funding and align with the priorities under the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

Eligible project must:

- deliver actions or recommendations in a CHAS or in the Implementation Plan forming part of a CHAS.
- be reasonably expected to be able gain development approval under relevant legislation, if required, and in particular, to meet the performance outcomes in the State Development Assessment Provisions;
- be cost effective and evidenced based;
- be sustainable in approach;
- be focused on continuous improvement.

Projects will not be eligible if they:

- are already completed or substantially commenced
- have received funding from another source for the same purpose (i.e., 'double dipping')
- involve works on an asset or land that will not be owned or controlled by the applicant (unless demonstrably for public benefit)
- works solely for the protection of private property, whether on private land or not
- involve the purchase of land or buildings
- are commercial in nature for the agency or any partner agency

COMMENTS

Douglas Shire Council applied through the QCoast2100 Round 4 Implementation of Coastal Hazard Adaptation works to secure funding for coastal protection and resilience works along Fourmile Beach Esplanade and to develop Shoreline Erosion Management Plans for Newell Beach and Fourmile Beach.

Fourmile Beach Esplanade Resilience Project, if successful, includes:

- Assessment and planning of the current state of the beach access paths, dune system and surf lifesaving hut.
- Detailed design for upgrades and protective measures.
- Improve safety, accessibility and resilience of public beach access points, including the disability access ramp and the surf lifesaving hut.
- Implementing dune protection measures including beach nourishment and revegetation of native species.
- Emphasis on nature-based solutions to enhance coastal resilience.

The Shoreline Erosion Management Plan Development Project, if successful, will include:

- Community and stakeholder engagement.
- Data collection.
- Technical assessments, identification and review of factors comprising risk and physical coastal processes.
- Management options assessment.

PROPOSAL

That Council:

1. Retrospectively endorses the Fourmile Beach Esplanade Resilience Project and Shoreline Erosion Management Plan Development Project to the QCoast2100 Round 4 Implementation of Coastal Hazard Adaptation Works for funding under the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Efficiencies Funding Program; and
2. Acknowledges the requirement to allocate funds within future operational and capital budgets, if successful, for the delivery of the nominated QCoast2100 Round 4 Implementation of Coastal Hazard Adaptation Works funded projects.
3. Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all matters associated with the Projects if successful.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's contribution to this funding is 6%, amounting to a total of \$43,000 across the two projects (see Table below).

Project	Council Contribution	Funding Body	Total Cost	Project
Fourmile Beach Esplanade Resilience Project	\$35,000	\$545,800	\$580,800	
Shoreline Erosion Management Plan Development	\$8,000	\$118,500	\$126,500	
Total	\$43,000	\$664,300	\$707,300	

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Without the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Efficiencies Funding Program Council will not be in a financial position to deliver these Projects.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic:

Fourmile Beach is one of Council's natural assets that attracts a lot of visitors to the Shire. Undertaking resilience works will improve accessibility and reduce public safety risks, supporting local tourism and the economy.

Environmental:

Concept designs will consider stakeholder needs and regulatory requirements with the local area and environment. A focus on nature-based solutions and reducing disturbance on the natural environment will retain the natural character of the areas.

Social: The projects will provide human and social benefits by improving accessibility for all abilities, quality of life, supporting mental wellbeing, increasing recreational opportunities, encouraging active and independent lifestyles for people with disabilities. The Projects will reduce safety risks to the public.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy, and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

Goal 1 - We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.

Goal 2 - We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the liveability of our beautiful Shire.

Theme 3 - Leading Environmental Stewardship

Our visitors and residents deeply value the unparalleled environment in which we live. We recognise our responsibility in protecting and preserving our natural world for generations to come. We understand the strong link between the environment and the economy: they are interdependent. Douglas Shire will be at the forefront of environmental protection by developing strategies, setting policies, and working with all stakeholders to become the envy of and to inspire locations across Australia and the World.

Goal 1 - We will protect our sensitive environment and plan for the impact of climate change.

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances, and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Builder/Owner	Council makes a significant investment every year in the infrastructure that underpins the Shire through its capital works program. Council will manage its assets with appropriate frameworks and deliver its projects through robust project management.
Custodian	Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.
Service Provider	Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time, and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.

CONSULTATION

Internal:	Open Spaces, Community Liaison Officer, Executive Team, Grants and Finance.
External:	QCoast2100 Program Manager, Traditional Owner Groups, Surf Lifesaving Club, Support services and local businesses.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Should the funding submissions be successful, community and stakeholder engagement form an important part of both projects.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Q Coast round 4 funding fact sheet [6.20.1 - 3 pages]

QCoast2100 Round 4 Implementation – Applications Open

Applications for the next round of funding through the QCoast2100 Program are now open.

Implementation

The Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation has received \$6 million in grant funding from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) through their [Efficiencies Funding Program](#) (EFP) for the implementation of coastal hazard adaptation works and actions for disaster mitigation through the QCoast2100 Program.

The EFP is designed to fund strategic risk mitigation and resilience activities that will create stronger, safer and more resilient Queensland Communities.

The program is now calling for applications for projects that meet the project selection criteria.

Program objective

The objective of the program is to address the states coastal hazard risk by assisting council to implement coastal hazard adaptation works identified in a CHAS developed under the QCoast2100 program. To optimise grant funding benefit and environmental outcomes, projects that deliver the following will be highly regarded:

- demonstrate innovative and cost-effective solutions, including on ground works.
- emphasise nature-based solutions or solutions with environmental benefits that enhance or preserve the natural character of the coast.
- benefit other councils across the State through joint projects, shared learnings or actions that can inform or provide leading practice examples for other councils; and/or
- leverage QCoast2100 funding through partnerships, joint projects, and high co-contributions.

Funding

The maximum funding available per project is nominally set at \$1 million, with the final decision on project funding amounts at the discretion of the QCoast2100 Board.

A minimum co-contribution requirement applies to all projects with higher contributions encouraged.

Please contact gcoast2100@lgaq.asn.au to confirm your councils required amount.

Eligible councils

To be eligible to apply, councils must:

- have developed a CHAS through the QCoast₂₁₀₀ program, which has been endorsed by the council; or
- be well advanced in CHAS development and works are needed to address an imminent threat to assets (roads etc); and
- provide the minimum funding co-contribution.

Any applications that don't meet these criteria must be discussed with the Program Manager and approval will be at the discretion of the QCoast2100 Board.

Eligible Projects

Projects must:

- deliver actions or recommendations in a CHAS or in the Implementation Plan forming part of a CHAS; or
- be identified as a critical need in a CHAS under development, where works are required to address an imminent threat; and
- be reasonably expected to be able gain development approval under relevant legislation, if required, and in particular, to meet the performance outcomes in the State Development Assessment Provisions.
- be cost effective and evidenced based.
- be sustainable in approach.
- be focused on continuous improvement.

This program focus is on ground works, however applications for planning or education and awareness raising will be considered.

Ineligible Projects

Projects are not eligible if they:

- are already completed or substantially commenced
- have received funding from another source for the same purpose (i.e., 'double dipping')
- involve works on an asset or land that will not be owned or controlled by the applicant (unless demonstrably for public benefit)
- works solely for the protection of private property, whether on private land or not
- involve the purchase of land or buildings
- are commercial in nature for the agency or any partner agency

Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible for funding:

- Subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation
- Purchase of core business capital equipment such as motor vehicles and office equipment
- Remuneration of executive officers
- Remuneration of an existing employee, unless the employee is temporarily reassigned to conduct work directly related to the delivery of the program
- Retrospective costs or costs that are incurred prior to program approval, unless prior formal agreement has been reached with QCoast2100 to incur such costs
- Statutory fees and charges, and any costs associated with obtaining regulatory and/or development approvals (except design)
- Costs beyond the program period, for example ongoing costs for administration, operation, maintenance or management
- Costs not supported by the general ledger, including oncost charges
- Profit margin of delivery agent or proposing agency
- Costs exceeding the approved funding amount
- Costs that are reimbursable under other funding sources, including insurance or capital budgets

Project assessment criteria

The Project Team and the QCoast2100 Board will assess applications against the following assessment criteria. Meeting multiple criteria will be of benefit in project assessment:

Mandatory

1. Meets eligibility criteria and does not include ineligible works or costs.

Assessable

1. Priority rating

High priority projects

- Works for direct protection of community (public) assets from coastal hazards.
- Nature based solutions to enhance natural coastal defences, address emerging coastal hazards or for improve resilience, e.g. beach nourishment, dune management, mangrove restoration.

Low priority project

- Projects supporting future on-ground works including detailed investigation of the causes of erosion, management options analysis, design of works and planning tools to mitigate risk.
 - Monitoring, data collection or public engagement projects
2. Progresses actions in a CHAS 'Recommendation' or 'Implementation Plan'
 3. Provides a benefit of asset protection and community safety from coastal hazards
 4. Demonstrate innovative design or new concepts in adaptation
 5. Demonstrates efficiency in the application of QCoast2100 grant funding through, for example, high co-funding contribution or it is demonstrated that early adoption will lead to future cost savings
 6. Optimizes conservation of the coastal environment, including adopts 'nature based' solutions that maintain the natural character and processes of the coast or, for hard engineering solutions such as seawalls, provide environmental benefits.
 7. Provides a benefit to other councils in term of shared learnings, demonstration of new or novel approaches and transferable solutions.
 8. Provide evidence of due diligence undertaken to ensure accurate project costs.

Project key dates

The closing date to submit an application will be **28 February 2025**.

This funding program's completion date is currently scheduled to be **30 June 2026**. All project deliverables must be completed and acquitted by this date. Please note: The LGAQ is currently working with DETSI to negotiate an extension to project timelines and will confirm the dates once agreed.

For any queries or further information, please contact our project team at qcoast2100@lgaq.asn.au