

7.6. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - QCOAST2100 PROGRAM ROUND 4 FUNDING

REPORT AUTHOR	Sustainability Officer
MANAGER	Manager Environment and Planning
DEPARTMENT	Corporate and Communities
DATE	16 June 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Retrospectively approve the lodgment of a grant application for the QCoast2100 Round 4 program for the funding of the development of shoreline erosion management plans for Cow Bay Beach and Oak Beach.**
- 2. Acknowledges the requirement to allocate funds within the future operational and capital budgets, if successful, for the delivery of the nominated QCoast2100 Program Round 4 Implementation of Coastal Adaptation Works funded projects.**
- 3. Delegates authority under Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to finalise any matters relating to the grant application.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation secured \$6 million in grant funding from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) under the Efficiencies Funding Program to deliver coastal hazard adaptation and disaster mitigation initiatives through the QCoast2100 Program.

The Program aims to reduce Queensland's coastal hazard risks by supporting local governments to implement priority adaptation measures identified in Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategies (CHAS) developed under QCoast2100.

The QCoast2100 Program Round 4 Implementation funding opened in February 2025 and 15 projects were funded. Round 4 has funds remaining and invited new applications for projects that meet the project selection criteria.

This report is to endorse the project proposed under the QCoast2100 Program Round 4 Implementation funding allocation.

REPORT/BACKGROUND

Douglas Shire Council was the first Council in Queensland to develop a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS) under the QCoast2100 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 implementation of their CHAS, the QCoast2100 Program releases implementation funding. Douglas has been successful in obtaining implementation funding in the past to formalise pedestrian beach access points, revegetating coastal areas (including holding a community revegetation event) and installing interpretative signage along Fourmile Beach.

The QCoast2100 Program Round 4 Implementation funding opened in February 2025 and 15 projects were funded. Douglas was successful in securing funds to develop Shoreline Erosion Management Plans (SEMP) for Newell Beach and Four Mile Beach, Port Douglas. This project is currently being delivered and is scheduled for completion in December 2026.

Remaining funds are still available under Round 4, and applications were invited for projects that meet the selection criteria and can be delivered by 30 June 2027.

Douglas Shire Council submitted an application for the development of Shoreline Erosion Management Plans for Cow Bay Beach and Oak Beach:

A Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) is a non-statutory planning framework designed to understand and manage shoreline erosion over a 10-20yr period. It identifies areas at risk, evaluates coastal processes, and outlines preferred management options to protect public infrastructure, natural habitats, and community assets.

The development of a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) includes:

- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Data collection
- Coastal process and technical assessments.
- Identification and review of factors comprising risk
- Management options assessment and multi-criteria analysis

In addition, the Cow Bay SEMP will complement the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Category E Crucial links access project. If successful, the development of the SEMP for Cow Bay Beach will identify management options and response strategies to enhance the resilience and redundancy of the site as a potential emergency resupply location.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The QCoast2100 Program has re-released round four (4) of its implementation funding due to unspent funds. The funding is for the implementation of coastal hazard adaptation works and actions for disaster mitigation. The maximum amount of funding available per project is \$150k with Council required to contribute a minimum of 6 per cent.

If both projects are supported, a cash contribution of \$8,500 will be required by Council for 2026/27.

If only one (1) of the projects is supported, a cash contribution of \$6,100 will be required for 2026/27.

Council included \$14,000 in-kind contribution through project management, administration and community engagement.

A contingency of 15 per cent was included in the grant application.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Shoreline Erosion Management Plans will enhance Council's ability to identify, assess, and mitigate risks associated with current and potential future coastal erosion. By guiding the implementation of targeted and cost-effective measures, the plans will strengthen Council's capacity to proactively manage disaster and climate-related risks, reducing long-term impacts on infrastructure, communities, and natural assets.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Concept designs will consider stakeholder needs, resilience 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 IMPLICATIONS

The SEMP's will provide the community and key stakeholders with an opportunity to have their say on how we manage the coastline. The project will provide human and social benefits by improving accessibility and reducing safety risks to the public.

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 3 - Service Delivery

We deliver Council services effectively and efficiently to meet community expectations, focusing on the wellbeing of both the community and our employees.

3.7 - Identify and manage risk.

3.9 - Preserve, protect and improve our unique environment.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

1.7.1 - Identify tangible solutions for nature-based hazard mitigation projects.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- *Resilient Coast Strategic Plan 2019 – 2029.*
- *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*

CONSULTATION

Application consultation included:

Internal consultation:

- Disaster Management
- Grants
- Community Engagement Officer

External consultation:

- QCoast2100 Program Manager
- Traditional Owner Groups
- Wet Tropics Management Authority – Letters of Support.

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

CONCLUSION

The grant application was lodged on the 15 May 2025. Council will be advised within 30 days of the application closing date (15 June 2026) of the status of our application. Projects are to be completed by 30 June 2027.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil