

## PUBLIC PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL MEETING OF 8 APRIL 2025 - SURFSIDE EROSION

I am Rosemary Deadman and I am writing in my capacity as the Vice President of the Eurobodalla Coast Alliance. I am also here because my home and many others in my street are at immediate risk from a natural disaster. I have been a resident of Surfside for 43 years.

For the first decade or so the sand and beaches were stable until 1991 when the wall on the town side of the river was extended by 150m. This was when the massive sand bar in the river which used to act as a wall on the northern side started disappearing. (see photo attached).

At the same time sand was accreting at Corrigans Beach leaving the sailing club a long distance from the water and enabling the Marine Rescue and large carpark to be built on the new land. In the past boats used to be launched off the tip of Catlin Avenue in Hanging Rock which is now nowhere near the water. (See circled area in photo below). As the water in the northern shoal off Surfside beach moves in an anti-clockwise direction, sand is being scoured from this area by the power of the river and being deposited at the end of the rock wall at Corrigans beach. Some of this sand needs regular dredging to maintain the depth and is done only every 5 to 10 years and it is this dredged sand that we have been promised in the CMP, to be supplied by Transport for NSW. To date nothing has happened despite sand mitigation being promised over two years ago.

We have been told it is not Council's responsibility to maintain the dune yet in a council document titled "Your Rates in 2024-2025" it states on page 2, item 2

Environmental Levy Covers dune care, estuary management, weed and pest control, environmental monitoring, foreshore protection and studies that will help develop plans for the protection of our waterways and ecological systems.

On several occasions we have been promised funding. The most recent was in an article in The Beagle dated 10 June 2023 and states - "Through the first round Batemans Bay will benefit from \$12,007,632 in combined investment into disaster prevention, through joint Federal and State government co-contributions.

Local members Fiona Phillips and Dr Michael Holland were both delighted to see strong investment to protect the South East local environment and homes from coastal erosion. Fiona Phillips, the Member for Gilmore said of the announcement "I'm thrilled to see the Batemans Bay region, in particular Surfside, receiving upgrades that will better prepare the community for future disasters."

Full article attached below.

Australians are known for coming together in response to natural disasters. The 2020 bushfires are one example where community spirit and generosity from all over

Australia helped Eurobodalla locals get through some of the toughest of times. Sadly that doesn't seem to be the case when it comes to beach erosion. The usual comment is "You shouldn't have built there". No-one says that to someone whose home has been taken by a bushfire despite their proximity to trees.

Councillors we need your support and we need that support to be visible. Council is the community's most important representative in this situation and is our most powerful tool to lobby and bring together efforts across the higher levels of government. It also has the most influence in allocating funds within the Eurobodalla.

Today I hope to achieve a council response, re-affirming it's support and issuing an official update to all Surfside residents on the status of the main Surfside beach erosion issues including information from State and Federal governments and/or ministers. We need to know about recent Council advocacy, progress on Transport for NSW's sand nourishment promise and any other future action. Most importantly we require a study that includes the effects from the rock wall and the new bridge which will hopefully point to how this erosion can be mitigated.

Presentations have been made to council on this topic for many years and there have been various public announcements by State and Commonwealth government officials promising funding to address these issues but nothing has ever eventuated.

Until a natural disaster is declared, without Council's ongoing support nothing will happen. Last week waves washed up against the back doors of some homes including mine. We have run out of time. (see attached photos).

We are seeking your support in declaring a natural disaster as there is no further protection by the dune to several properties, many of which have lost additional metres of the dune in the last event. Our backs are to the wall. If necessary an urgent public meeting to discuss the issue could be organised so there is an understanding by residents of what action is being taken. We would appreciate it if that meeting involved a representative from Transport for NSW.

Thank you for your time,

Rosemary Deadman

Vice President

Eurobodalla Coast Alliance

## The Beagle

- Jun 10, 2023

### Batemans Bay To Receive New Costal Protection Works Under New Disaster Ready Fund

The Batemans Bay region will be better protected and prepared for future natural disasters following the announcement of new costal protection works funded under Round One of the Federal Government's new Disaster Ready Fund.

Through the first round Batemans Bay will benefit from \$12,007,632 in combined investment into disaster prevention, through joint Federal and State government co-contributions.

Local members Fiona Phillips and Dr Michael Holland were both delighted to see strong investment to protect the South East local environment and homes from coastal erosion.

The Fund was an election commitment by the Albanese Government, and will deliver national long-term mitigation funding to help protect communities from natural disasters.

State and Territory governments submitted applications for a range of projects to improve mitigation and resilience, in collaboration with local Councils and community groups.

Over the last year, the Federal Government has paid out more than \$2.7 billion in recovery and resilience programs and payments to support individuals and communities impacted by natural disasters.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will work with each jurisdiction to negotiate funding agreements with funds to be provided as soon as possible from July 2023. Projects must be completed within three years.

Fiona Phillips, the Member for Gilmore said of the announcement "I'm thrilled to see the Batemans Bay region, in particular Surfside, receiving upgrades that will better prepare the community for future disasters."

"These communities have been crying out for investment to protect our costal properties and foreshore, this funding is a winner for local people."

"Through the new Disaster Ready Fund, we're investing to build critical projects that will reduce disaster risk, help to reduce recovery costs and strengthen community resilience."

"This project will fund upgrades to essential services, road protection structures, rock walls and levees to make our communities more resilient in the future."

Dr Michael Holland, the Member for Bega added "Our region knows – sadly, better than most – the importance of disaster preparation and resilience.

"I am pleased our governments have recognised the needs of the south coast and are investing through the Disaster Ready Fund.

"We are taking steps now to reduce risk and to make it easier for our community during and after future disasters."

In making the announcement the Federal Minister for Emergency Management, Murray Watt said "It is critical we do more to build defences, to better protect communities and their regional economies."

"We know that every dollar spent on disaster resilience and mitigation delivers a return on investment to governments and households nine times over. But as a country we invest far more in recovering from disasters than we do defending against them, and that mentality has got to change."

"This is about more than just bricks and mortar. We are changing the way Australia deals with natural disasters by planning better for the future to ensure that communities all around the country are better prepared, less exposed and in the best possible position to recover when disasters strike."

More information on the Disaster Ready Fund, including updates about Round Two of the Disaster Ready Fund, can be found on [NEMA's website](#).

















