

## 10 Conclusions and Further Considerations

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The NMBSEMP has identified a number of opportunities to enhance shoreline erosion management throughout the study area. The promoted management option(s) for a given shoreline section seeks to reflect the existing assets and values attributed to the area.

The relatively poor condition of many existing seawalls suggests significant upgrades may be required in the short to medium term. The greatest investment in capital works is anticipated for the Toorbul study area. However, it is reiterated that capital works priorities and opportunities to extend the life of existing structures through repair could be further explored as part of the proposed structural integrity assessments.

There is significant opportunity to preserve and enhance coastal vegetation and mangrove communities that act to stabilise foreshore areas and reduce erosion potential. Ongoing management of these areas will help to maintain environmental values and minimise future shoreline maintenance requirements. The capital and maintenance costs associated with re-establishing vegetated shoreline are often significantly less than the implementation of hard structures. Natural shorelines are also expected to better adapt to future climatic pressures such as sea level rise.

The provision of information to landholders regarding appropriate shoreline erosion management strategies on private land is strongly encouraged. This information may include preferred seawall types and alignment or beneficial vegetation management activities. The NMBSEMP provides details that could be used as a starting point for developing useful information packages for landholders and the wider community.

Monitoring and inspection of shorelines and foreshores throughout the study area is presently undertaken by Council as part of their commitment to maintaining valuable open public space. The NMBSEMP also promotes expanding the current monitoring activities to include shoreline vegetation and mangrove health. Such activities could be coordinated through engagement with community groups and programs such as Mangrove Watch (information provided in Appendix A).

Planning and management agencies are likely to be faced with undesired impacts of climate change and sea level rise, particularly on developed coastlines. The 50-year Planning Horizon Erosion Prone Area assessments completed as part of NMBSEMP (and described in the Stage 1 report) should be considered by land use decision makers. The calculated widths and mapping are intended to help decision makers align perceived risk to existing and/or proposed infrastructure. The development of appropriate measures, actions and policies to address climate change impacts throughout the study area should be undertaken as part of future coastal hazard adaptation planning.