



Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Wainui Coastal Adaptation Plan

Understanding values and risks

March 2025

Managing current and future coastal hazard risks



participate.gdc.govt.nz

Coastal Adaptation Plan

A plan which prepares for the impacts of coastal hazards, ensuring the community, infrastructure, and environment are resilient to potential coastal hazards.

Here's what we're doing

- **March - April 2025 (Hui #1)**
Community engagement on values and risks
- **May - June 2025 (Hui #2)**
Community engagement on options and pathways
- **July - September 2025**
Draft plan development
- **October - November 2025 (Hui #3)**
Finalise plan

Why are we doing this?

Wainui Beach holds deep cultural, social, and economic significance but faces ongoing challenges from erosion and coastal hazards. These risks are expected to grow due to the impacts of climate change.

There is a Wainui Beach Erosion Management Strategy (WBEMS) which was last updated in 2014, however, to address the current and future challenges, we need to shift to a more adaptive approach.

We are developing a Wainui Beach Coastal Adaptation Plan to guide hazard management and development decisions. This includes guiding the review of the coastal rules in the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP).

Wainui Beach is our pilot project for community adaptation planning. The insights and learnings gained will help us plan for adaptation in other communities.

What we heard previously

During the development of the Wainui Beach Erosion Management Strategy in 2014, the Key Stakeholder Forum was previously asked to prioritise the key issues. **Have your say on the values and priorities on our Participate page.**



Values of the coast

- Protect surf breaks of national significance
- Maintain natural beach processes including natural movement of sand
- Protect beachfront properties from erosion
- Protecting the foredune
- Maintaining access, public open space and recreational enjoyment
- Maintaining or restoring natural character of the coastal environment
- Protecting wāhi tapu

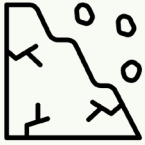


Priorities for plan development

- Research based evidence to inform plan
- Plan is relevant over the longer term
- An affordable plan
- Broad community acceptance of the plan
- Holistic beach perspective to inform prioritising of issues
- Balancing individual rights with collective rights
- An implementation timeline for the plan

What are Coastal Hazards?

Coastal hazards are dangers caused by natural processes like erosion, flooding, and unstable land near the coast. These risks are getting worse with climate change and rising sea levels, threatening homes, roads, and nature.



Coastal Erosion: The gradual wearing away of the coastline due to waves, tides, or other forces.



Coastal Inundation: Temporary flooding of low-lying areas by seawater during storms or high tides, especially in areas near stream mouths.



Sea-Level Rise: The long-term increase in the ocean level due to climate change, amplifying risks of erosion and inundation.



Cliff Instability: The potential for cliffs to weaken and collapse due to natural forces, posing risks to adjacent infrastructure.



Fluvial Flooding: Flooding caused by rivers and streams, particularly during storm events.

Hazards and Risk Data

WSP New Zealand Ltd (WSP) was engaged by Council to prepare a coastal hazard assessment for Wainui Beach.

We then looked at the assets and infrastructure that is at risk of coastal hazards under current and future climate scenarios.

The biggest risk for Wainui Beach is coastal erosion. Right now, the beach is generally stable, with phases of both erosion and sand build-up. However, some areas—especially in the Southern Beach section—are more at risk because homes and infrastructure are close to where these natural changes happen.

As climate change and sea-level rise continue, erosion is expected to get worse. Some areas will be affected more than others depending on factors like dune height, etc. The Southern Beach and stream mouths are most at risk.

Most of Wainui Beach is not currently affected by flooding from the sea, even with future sea-level rise. However, lower-lying areas near the stream mouths could experience some flooding.

Below is the erosion hazard map prepared for the Southern Beach section. It shows the projected erosion of the shoreline with associated sea level rise in 100 years using the three different climate change scenarios.

Please visit the Participate page to view maps for the full beach and all hazards assessed.

Map of Southern Beach



Have your say now!

Thank you for taking your time to read through the plans for Wainui Coastal Adaptation Plan.

To learn more, please use the form on our Participate webpage to have your say. Keep updated by following the page using the button at the top.

If you have any more questions, email us at TRMP@gdc.govt.nz



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