



Department of Transport  
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage



Addressing the impacts of  
coastal hazards on the WA coast

Western Australia has over 20,000 kilometres of coastline, featuring some of the most iconic and beautiful beaches in the world. The coast is one of WA's most valuable assets and a major contributor to the State's liveability and attractiveness for locals and visitors.

The WA coast is subject to coastal erosion and the consequences of inundation from storm events, which have increased with the global rise in sea levels and population growth along the coast. Erosion is a natural coastal process that creates hazards and may threaten coastal assets and/or values. The cause of erosion and its impacts varies between locations, influencing possible management solutions. While [State Planning Policy 2.6 - State Coastal Planning Policy](#) requires new coastal developments to avoid coastal hazards, there are locations where existing coastal facilities and assets are vulnerable.



## Background

To assist with strategically planning for the effects of coastal erosion, the State Government commissioned a study to evaluate the scale and extent of coastal erosion in WA: [Assessment of Coastal Erosion Hotspots in Western Australia 2019](#). The study identified 55 hotspot locations where coastal erosion is, or is expected to be, a threat to coastal values and assets and require management and adaptation action within 25 years. Some of the erosion hotspots are in close-proximity to State strategic infrastructure, many of which have key cultural and social significance to tourism and WA's economy. An additional 31 locations were placed on a watch-list for future consideration.

Coastal foreshore reserves are generally vested in local governments which are responsible for their care, control and maintenance. The WA State Government provides support to build local capacity to manage coastal hazards. Grants are provided by the Department of Transport (Coastal Adaptation and Protection grants) and the Western Australian Planning Commission (Coastal Management Plan Assistance Program and Coastwest).

**CoastWA** enhances the State's existing coastal planning and management program, providing additional support to implement a strategic response to the growing impacts of coastal hazards.



Coastal erosion at Port Beach



Windbreak fencing at the Floreat dog-beach - Photo courtesy Cambridge Coastcare

## Aim

**CoastWA** supports planning, managing and adapting to the impacts of coastal hazards to ensure sustainable land use and development on the coast for the long-term.

## Objectives

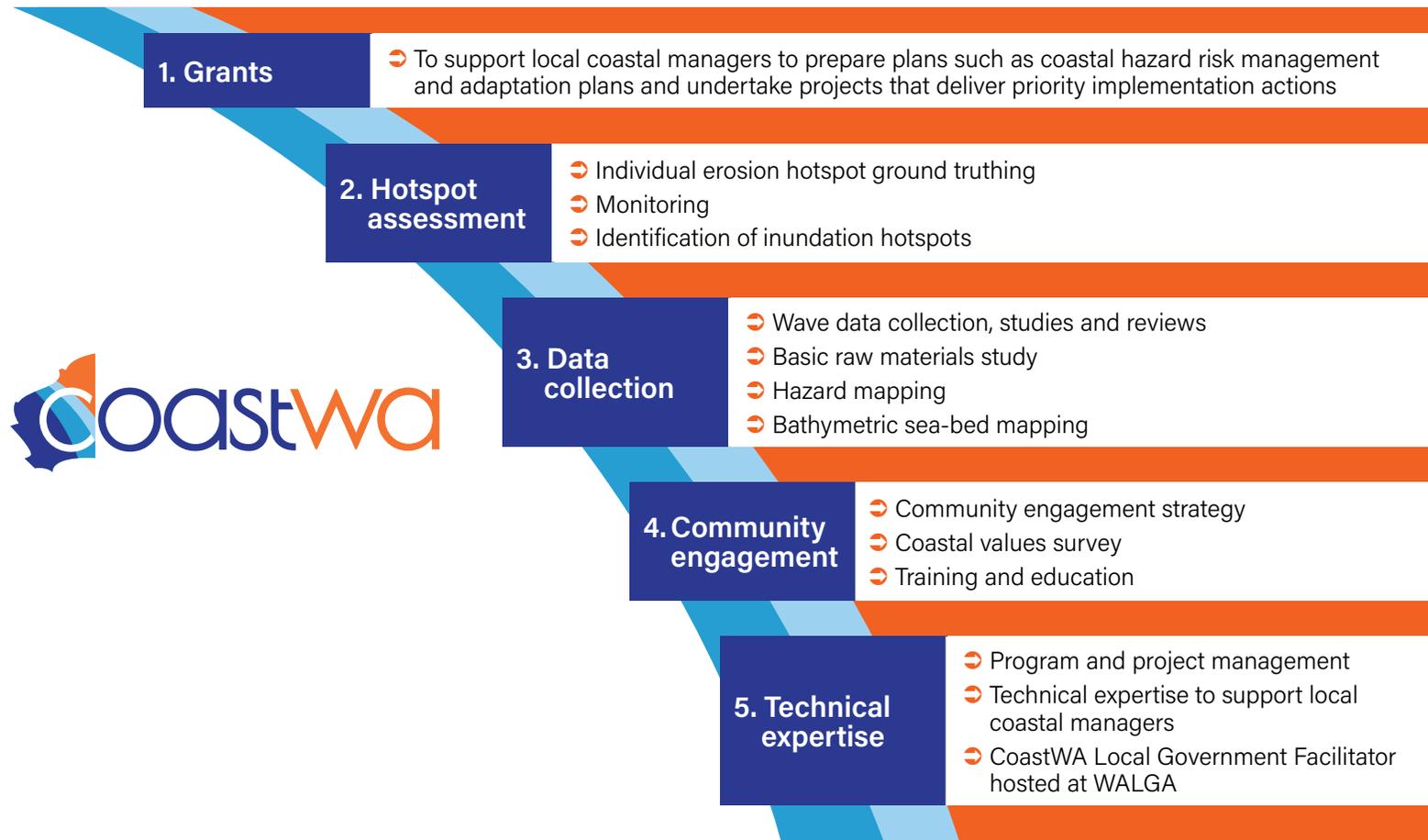
### CoastWA:

1. supports coastal managers to evaluate the options for coastal management and adaptation strategies;
2. provides the means to plan, budget and manage the impacts of coastal hazards; and
3. strengthens the State – Local Government partnership and ensures expertise is available – especially for smaller less-resourced local governments.

## Budget

**CoastWA** is a State Government investment of **\$33.5 million** over five years from 2021-26.

# Program elements



# Implementation

**CoastWA** will be implemented over five years, overseen by the interagency Coastal Management Advisory Group and delivered through existing cooperative arrangements between Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of Transport and specific grants funding agreements with local governments.



Mettams Beach - storm erosion after Ex-cyclone Mangga in May 2020



City of Stirling CHRMAP community consultation - Photo by Element

# Outputs

To achieve the program objectives, CoastWA outputs include:

- grants to local coastal managers
- appointment of a CoastWA Local Government Facilitator
- coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning for all coastal erosion hotspot locations and delivery of priority implementation actions
- a community education strategy to raise awareness about coastal processes and coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning
- inundation hotspot identification and assessment
- monitoring programs to support adaptive decision making
- a basic raw materials study to determine demand and availability of suitable sand supplies for those hotspots where protection is recommended for the 0-5 year and 5-25-year timeframes
- a study of the socio-economic values of beaches in coastal erosion hotspots where protection structures are to be considered as a management option given the impact of such structures on beaches
- geotechnical investigations for coastal erosion hotspots, starting with those where private, leasehold, road/rail and services are susceptible within 25 years
- wave data collection and sea-bed mapping to better understand coastal hazards and coastal responses.



Erosion hazard mapping, Albany

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The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of this land. We pay our respect to Elders past and present, their descendants who are with us today, and those who will follow in their footsteps.

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