

# **Tasman District Council**

## **Coastal Management Feedback**

**13 September 2019**

For more information please contact:  
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## Submitter details

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Tasman District Council's Coastal Management Feedback.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
3. This submission sets out particular matters of interest and concern to NMH.

## Specific Comments

4. NMH congratulates Tasman District Council on requesting feedback on the future coastal management. Sea level rise and erosion will impact the health of our environment and communities.
5. NMH considers the number one sea level rise and coastal storm inundation concern is the impact on *lifeline utilities infrastructure*. From a public health perspective, salt-water intrusion into aquifers is a major concern. In Tasman, there are a range of drinking water supplies (both Council and privately owned) drawing water for human consumption which are located near the coast.
6. In addition there are a number of key transport routes which are very close to the coast and are vulnerable to sea level rise.
7. As new information emerges, TDC needs to have the ability to react to the extent and speed of sea level rise. NMH advocates for a comprehensive assessment of vulnerable public infrastructure along the coastlines. It is critical that plans and funding for adaptive strategies are available in order to secure lifeline infrastructure.
8. Consideration should be given to ensuring that potentially toxic and/or biologically contaminative facilities e.g. sewage treatment plants, solid and hazardous waste disposal facilities, chemical manufacturers (past and present), power plants meet stringent design and maintenance requirements intended to seal potential contaminants within sea water-proof buildings and containers when storms occur<sup>1</sup>. This is especially important given the recent problems with erosion at the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228322085\\_A\\_Public\\_Health\\_Perspective\\_on\\_Sea-Level\\_Rise\\_Starting\\_Points\\_for\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Adaptation](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228322085_A_Public_Health_Perspective_on_Sea-Level_Rise_Starting_Points_for_Climate_Change_Adaptation)

old Fox Glacier landfill site<sup>2</sup>. Any new facility must be required to be sited away from vulnerable coastlines.

9. The protection of homes is another key concern for NMH. Homes are often the most significant material and financial possession people have. Sea level rise and inundation will have a major effect on people in coastal areas. Inundation can result in loss of possessions, damage to homes, disruptions to home life which can affect mental health. In addition, the inability for some coastal homes to get insurance in the future could affect both new and existing developments<sup>3</sup>.
10. Steps need to be taken to help homeowners prepare for sea level rise, erosion and coastal inundation. NMH was pleased to see that the Future Development Strategy has sited growth areas outside of coastal areas. Information needs to be given to home owners within affected areas about options to protect property in terms of elevating buildings or reinforcing structures<sup>4</sup> as well as information about evacuation procedures. NMH notes that some European countries have dedicated national funding for household-level protection measures and funds of investment in risk reduction. This may be something that TDC would like to advocate for.<sup>5</sup>

## Conclusion

11. NMH thanks the Tasman District Council for the opportunity to comment on the Coastal Management Feedback.

Yours sincerely



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**Chief Executive**  
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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/111835637/volunteers-in-tears-as-full-scale-of-westland-landfill-flood-disaster-becomes-clear>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.level.org.nz/site-analysis/hazards/rising-sea-levels/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/publications/consistent-messages-part-B-coastal-inundation.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/environment/cc/policy-highlights-responding-to-rising-seas.pdf>

## Gaylene Corlett

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**From:** Jane Murray  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 September 2019 9:15 AM  
**To:** Gaylene Corlett  
**Cc:** Cathy O'Malley; Peter Burton  
**Subject:** Signature Required: Coastal Management Feedback  
**Attachments:** SubmissionCoastalManagementv2.docx

Hi Gaylene,

Please find attached a copy of the Coastal Management Feedback submission.

### **Background to the consultation:**

We need to better prepare our communities for the effects of ongoing changes to weather patterns and rising sea levels. We're starting the conversation with our communities on coastal management. At this early stage, the focus of the programme is on raising awareness, developing a common understanding of the information we have and gathering your feedback.

### **Key points in our submission:**

1. NMH considers the number one sea level rise and coastal storm inundation concern is the impact on lifeline utilities infrastructure.
2. Consideration should be given to ensuring that potentially toxic and/or biologically contaminative facilities meet stringent design and maintenance requirements intended to seal potential contaminants within sea water-proof buildings and containers when storms occur.
3. The protection of homes is another key concern for NMH. Sea level rise and inundation will have a major effect on people in coastal areas. NMH notes that some European countries have dedicated national funding for household-level protection measures and funds of investment in risk reduction. This may be something that TDC would like to advocate for.

This submission has had input from Health Protection officers Geoff Cameron and Evan McKenzie, Peter Burton.

This submission is due on Friday the 13 September.

Kind regards

Jane

### **Jane Murray**

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