

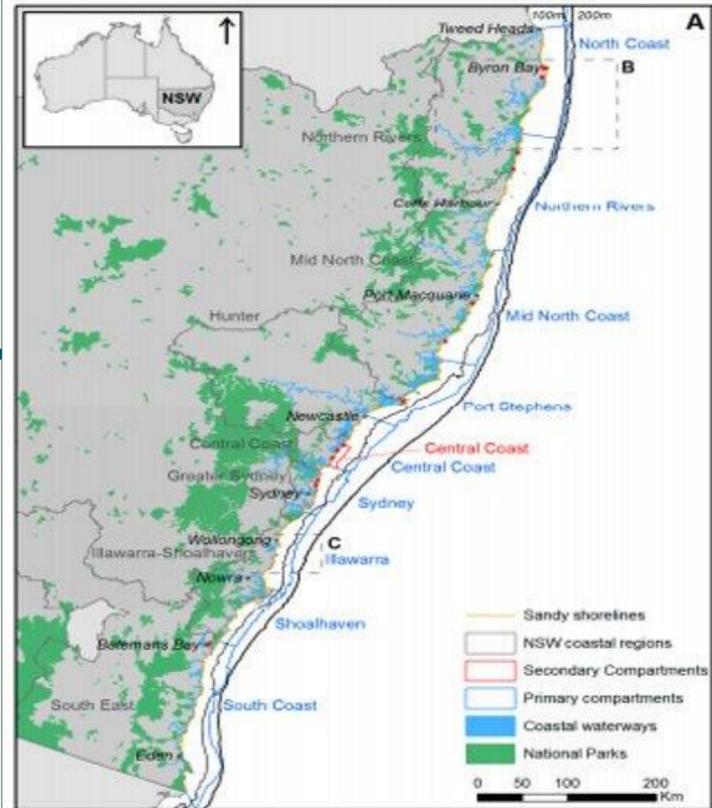
# MEETING IN THE MIDDLE : A CASE STUDY OF COASTAL EROSION, RISK ADAPTATION, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, WAMBERAL BEACH NSW.

## Introduction:

For over 50 years, the risk of coastal erosion has been ever-present for Wamberal beach, much like the vulnerability of the NSW Coastline. However, within the ten years since the National Risk framework was released and climate risk has increased significant beach erosion events have impacted the beachfront residences at Wamberal beach. This research investigates risk adaptation to increase long-term resilience within the principles of ESD and how are the actors meeting in the middle to achieve this?

## Climate Risk & Coastal Erosion:

- In a climate-impacted world, many coastlines will encounter increasing erosion with sea-level rise and storm surges, “already-severe coastal erosion problems witnessed in the 20th century will be exacerbated in the 21st century under plausible global warming scenarios” (Zhang, et.al, 2004).
- “The erosive capacity of accelerated sea-level rise and the increasing frequency of high water level events will at some point outstrip the capacity of natural processes to replenish beaches.”
- Developing effective policies and strategies for long-term coastal land-use planning is an intricate balance (Ranasinghe 2020).



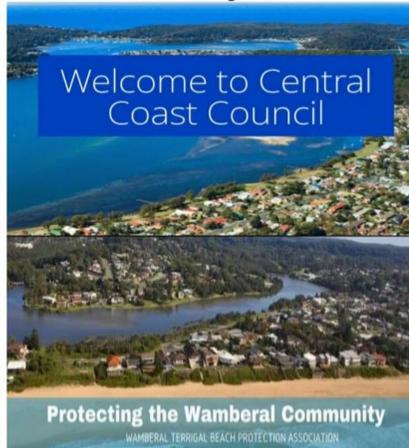
WHERE IS THE RISK MANAGEMENT & INTEGRATED PLANNING HERE?

WAMBERAL BEACH 1978, 2016. 2020 COASTAL EROSION FROM EAST COAST LOW STORM SURGES

## Adaptations

- “Adaptation to climate change and sea-level rise is the challenge present and future generations must face, finding technical, economic and social solutions.” Hinkel et al. 2018
- Sand nourishment over the long term is not considered a sustainable management practice, environmentally and economically? (McNamara and Keeler 2013).
- Adaptation measures are moving from the 20th century model of sea walls & sandbags, where post-disaster reconstruction is reduced for beachfront
- Planned retreat is identified as the most logical option and is likely to become an imperative in the future (Jones et al. 2020).

## The Community Actors



Politics, property rights and the community. Are they meeting in the middle?



Source: Adam Crouch - Member for Terrigal social media



## The Case for Planned Retreat

TOPICS: Forum Planned Retreat Wamberal



OCTOBER 16, 2020 <https://coastcommunitynews.com.au/central-coast/news/2020>



Source: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wamberalerosion>