



APPENDIX H GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DRAFT





Term	Definition
Acceptable risk	A risk that, following an understanding of the likelihood and consequences, is sufficiently low to require no new treatments or actions to reduce risk further. Individuals and society can live with this risk without feeling the necessity to reduce risks further. Positive and negative risks are negligible or so small that no risk treatments are needed.
Accretion	As the build-up of sediments to form land or shoaling in coastal waters or waterways. It may be either natural or artificial. Natural accretion is the build-up of land on the beach, dunes, or in the water by natural processes, such as waves, current and wind. Artificial accretion is a similar build-up of land resulting from built structures such as groynes or breakwaters, or activities such as filling and beach nourishment, or also aggradation.
ACH	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.
Adaptation	Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climate change or its effect, to moderate harm or to take advantage of beneficial opportunities.
AHD	Australian Height Datum (AHD) is the geodetic datum for altitude measurement in Australia. The level of 0.0 m AHD approximately corresponds to mean sea level.
Alongshore or Longshore	Parallel to and near the shoreline.
Ambulatory	In relation to the coastal foreshore, this means the movement of the foreshore seaward or landward over time, in response to coastal processes and sediment budgets. The movement of the foreshore may occur at different rates or in different directions along a beach or within a sediment compartment.
Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)	The probability (expressed as a percentage) of an exceedance (e.g., large wave height or high water level) in a given year.
Aquatic habitat	Typical submerged communities extending from near sea, river, or lake level down several feet, such as tidal flats, oyster beds, clam flats, seagrass beds, or fishing reefs.
Asset	Something of value and may be environmental, economic, social, recreational or a piece of built infrastructure.
Astronomical tide	Water level variations due to the combined effects of the Earth's rotation, the Moon's orbit around the Earth and the Earth's orbit around the Sun. It excludes and oceanographic or meteorological influences.
Back beach or back shore	The zone of the shore or beach lying between the foreshore and the coastline comprising the berm or berms and acted upon by waves only during severe storms, especially when combined with exceptionally high water.
BCR	Benefit-Cost Ratio.
Beach	The CM Act defines beach as an area that is generally composed of sand or pebbles or similar sediment that extends landward from the lowest astronomical tide to the line of vegetation or bedrock or structure.
Beach erosion	Refers to landward movement of the shoreline and/or a reduction in beach volume, usually associated with storm events or a series of events, which occurs within the beach fluctuation zone. Beach erosion occurs due to one or more process drivers; wind, waves, tides, currents, ocean water level, and downslope movement of material due to gravity.



Term	Definition
Beach nourishment	Beach restoration or augmentation using clean dredged or fill sand. Dredged sand is usually hydraulically pumped and placed directly onto an eroded beach or placed in the littoral transport system. When the sand is dredged in combination with constructing, improving, or maintaining a navigation project, beach nourishment is a form of beneficial use of dredged material.
Beach plan shape	The shape of the beach in plan; usually shown as a contour line, combination of contour lines or recognisable features such as beach crest and/or the still water line.
Beach profile	A cross-section taken perpendicular to a given beach contour; the profile may include the face of a dune or seawall, extend over the backshore, across the foreshore, and seaward underwater into the nearshore zone.
Beach rotation	Beach rotation refers to a natural morphological process whereby the opposing ends of an embayed beach may narrow and widen in opposition to one another in response to seasonal or periodic changes in climate parameters such as wave direction and/or gradients in wave energy.
Beach scraping	Also referred to as 'nature assisted beach enhancement' (NABE) is a mechanical intervention to speed up the natural processes of berm and foredune recovery after a storm event.
Beach system	The CM Act defines as 'the processes that produce the beach fluctuation zone and the incipient foredunes and foredunes landward of the relevant beach'. In general, this means coastal lands, composed of sand, gravel or shell, between a seaward limit of 40 metres depth in the State coastal waters and a landward limit at the lee side of the dunes.
Berm	On a beach, a nearly horizontal plateau on the beach face or backshore, formed by the deposition of beach material by wave action or by means of a mechanical plant as part of a beach renourishment scheme. Some natural beaches have no berm, others have several.
Biodiversity	The variety and variability of wildlife (both plants and animals) and habitats. Biodiversity is typically a measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level.
Blow out	A depression on the land surface (usually a dune) caused by wind erosion.
Bluff	A high, steep bank or cliff.
BoM	The Australian Bureau of Meteorology.
Breaker zone (or surf zone)	The zone within which waves approaching the coastline commence breaking, typically in water depths of between 5 and 10 metres for ocean coasts, but sometimes in shallower water.
Buffer area	A parcel or strip of land that is designed and designated to permanently remain vegetated in an undisturbed and natural condition to protect an adjacent aquatic or wetland site from upland impacts, to provide habitat for wildlife and to afford limited public access.
Capital Costs	Expenditure incurred to acquire, construct, or significantly upgrade physical assets. In the CMP context, capital costs typically relate to planning, design, and construction of new infrastructure or major upgrades intended to provide long-term service capacity and resilience. These costs are generally one-off and accounted for as fixed assets



Term	Definition
CBA	Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) is a systematic economic evaluation technique used to assess and compare the costs and benefits of a proposed project, policy, or investment. It involves quantifying both the positive outcomes (benefits) and the negative aspects (costs) of a decision to determine if the benefits outweigh the costs. CBA typically assigns monetary values to all relevant factors, allowing decision-makers to make informed choices by comparing the net benefits (benefits minus costs) of different options. The goal of CBA is to maximize societal welfare by ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and that projects or policies with a positive net benefit are favoured.
CEA	Coastal Environment Area – a mapped area under the R&H SEPP.
Cliff	A high, steep face of rock; a precipice.
Climate	The characteristic weather of a region, particularly regarding temperature and precipitation, averaged over some significant interval of time (years).
Climate change	The long-term change (decades or longer) in pattern of weather, and related changes in oceans, land surfaces and ice sheets.
CM Act	<i>NSW Coastal Management Act 2016.</i>
CM Manual	The NSW Coastal Management Manual.
CMA	Coastal Management Area - Any one of 4 areas that make up the coastal zone as defined in the CM Act. These are the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area, coastal vulnerability area, coastal environment area, and the coastal use area.
CMP	Coastal Management Program – a long-term strategy for the coordinated management of land within the coastal zone, prepared and adopted under Part 3 of the CM Act.
Coast	A strip of land of variable width that extends from the shoreline inland to the first significant landform that is not influenced by coastal processes (such as waves, tides and associated currents).
Coastal cliff and slope instability	Geotechnical instabilities on coastal cliffs and bluffs, including rock falls, slumps, and landslides.
Coastal dune	Vegetated and unvegetated sand ridges built-up at the back of a beach. They comprise dry beach sand that has been blown landward and trapped by plants or other obstructions. Stable sand dunes act as a buffer against wave damage during storms, protecting the land behind from salt water intrusion, sea spray and strong winds. Coastal dunes also act as a reservoir of sand to replenish and maintain the beach at times of erosion.
Coastal emergency	An emergency due to actual or imminent coastal inundation, coastal erosion, or coastal cliff and slope instability which (a) threatens endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons; or (b) destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, any property or the natural environment.
Coastal engineering	A branch of civil engineering that applies engineering principles specifically to projects within the coastal zone (nearshore, estuary, marine, and shoreline).



Term	Definition
Coastal hazard	Defined in the CM Act to mean the following: ▪ beach erosion ▪ shoreline recession ▪ coastal lake or watercourse entrance instability ▪ coastal inundation ▪ coastal cliff and slope instability ▪ tidal inundation ▪ erosion and inundation of foreshores caused by tidal waters and the action of waves, including the interaction of those waters with catchment floodwaters
Coastal inundation	Coastal inundation occurs when a combination of marine and atmospheric processes raises the water level at the coast above normal elevations, causing land that is usually 'dry' to become inundated by sea water. Alternatively, the elevated water level may result in wave run-up and overtopping of natural or built shoreline structures (e.g., dunes, seawalls).
Coastal lake or watercourse entrance instability	Refers to the variety of potential hazards and risks associated with the dynamic nature of both natural and trained entrances. Coastal lake and watercourse entrances are highly active environments with their shape constantly changing in response to processes such as alongshore sediment transport, tidal flows, storms and catchment flooding.
Coastal processes	Marine, physical, meteorological and biological activities that interact with the geology and sediments to produce a particular coastal system.
Coastal protection works (CPW)	The CM Act defines coastal protection works as: <i>a) beach nourishment</i> <i>b) activities or works to reduce the impact of coastal hazards on land adjacent to tidal waters, including (but not limited to) seawalls, revetments and groynes.</i>
Coastal sediment compartment	An area of the coast defined by its sediment flows and landforms. Coastal sediment compartments may be mapped at primary, secondary or tertiary (local) scales. Boundaries are generally defined by structural features related to the geologic frameworks that define the planform of the coast.
Coastal wetland	Wetlands are areas that are inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or saline water and have soils, plants and animals in them that are adapted to, and depend on, moist conditions for at least part of their lifecycle. Coastal wetlands include marshes, mangroves, swamps, melaleuca forests, casuarina forests, sedgeland, brackish and freshwater swamps and wet meadows.
Coastal zone	As defined in the CM Act and CM SEPP: the area of land comprised of the following coastal management areas: the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest area, the coastal vulnerability area, the coastal environment area and the coastal use area.
Crown Land	In NSW, crown land refers to land that is owned by the NSW government and managed by various government agencies. In relation to this CMP, Crown lands include submerged Crown land, seabed and subsoil to 3 nautical miles from the coastline of NSW that is within the limits of the coastal waters of the State.



Term	Definition
CSP	Community Strategic Plan. The CSP forms the overarching, visionary document that translates the community's key priorities and aspirations into long-term strategic goals that guide the future direction of a given LGA. The Plan represents the highest level of strategic planning undertaken by a local council. The CMP must reflect and support implementation of the CSP. Under the CM Act, the objectives and management actions developed as part of CMPs are required to be strategically aligned with the objectives and strategies outlined in the CSP.
CUA	Coastal Use Area – land identified by the CM Act and R&H SEPP as being land adjacent to coastal waters, estuaries, coastal lakes and lagoons where development is or may be carried out (now or in the future). The R&H SEPP maps the extent of the coastal use area for planning purposes.
CVA	Coastal Vulnerability Area – defined in the CM Act as land subject to 7 coastal hazards.
CWLR	Coastal Wetland and Littoral Rainforests – a mapped area under the R&H SEPP.
CZEAS	A coastal zone emergency action subplan – Defined in the CM Act as plan that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all public authorities (including the local council) in response to emergencies immediately preceding or during periods of beach erosion, coastal inundation or coastal cliff and slope instability, where the beach erosion, coastal inundation or coastal cliff and slope instability occurs through storm activity or an extreme or irregular event.
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Plan – a plan for managing the coastal zone developed under the old (now superseded) coastal management framework for NSW. Now replaced by CMPs.
DCCEEW	The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
Design storm	A hypothetical extreme storm with waves that coastal protection structures will often be designed to withstand. The severity of the storm (i.e., return period) is chosen in view of the acceptable level of risk of damage or failure. A design storm consists of a design wave condition, a design water level, and a duration.
DP	Delivery Programs. The Delivery Program is a 4 year program that translates the strategic objectives of the Community Strategic Plan into actions. It is a fixed 4 year program, which is a statement of commitment from each newly elected Council. It identifies all key activities a council has committed to undertake over its 4 year life cycle.
DPIRD	The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DPHI	The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Prior to 1 January 2024, the responsibilities of the department were carried out by the former NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).
East Coast Low (ECL)	An intense low-pressure system that occurs off the east coast of Australia, bringing storms, high waves and heavy rain. East coast lows generally occur in autumn and winter off NSW, southern Queensland, and eastern Victoria.



Term	Definition
Economic evaluation	An assessment that helps decision-makers to understand the socioeconomic implications of adopting alternative management options and to make choices that will provide net benefits to the community. Cost-benefit analysis is a type of economic evaluation that considers and evaluates a wide range of costs and benefits associated with a proposal, in qualitative or quantitative (monetary) terms (with future costs and benefits reduced to today's prices), compared with a base case. It may be used in conjunction with other criteria (such as technical feasibility, community acceptance or environmental impact) to select optimal management responses. A multi-criteria assessment is not an economic evaluation but may assist decision-making in other ways.
Ecosystem	The living organisms and the non-living environment interacting in an area, encompassing the relationships between biological, geochemical, and geophysical systems; or a community and its environment including living and non-living components.
Entrance management	Includes artificial opening of entrances, managing the configuration, height or location of the beach berm to facilitate entrance opening at a level lower than the natural range.
Environmental Protection Works (EPW)	These are defined in the Standard Instrument - Principal Local Environmental Plan (2006 EPI 155a) as: <i>"works associated with the rehabilitation of land towards its natural state or any work to protect land from environmental degradation, and includes bush regeneration works, wetland protection works, erosion protection works, dune restoration works and the like, but does not include coastal protection works"</i> .
EP&A Act	The NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act - An act that governs land use planning and development in NSW, focusing on sustainable development, environmental protection, community participation, and compliance measures.
Erosion	The removal of land by natural forces such as waves, tidal currents and / or littoral currents.
Essential infrastructure	The CM Act defines infrastructure for the following purposes: electricity generation, transmission and distribution, telecommunications, rail, roads, gas, sewerage systems, water supply systems or stormwater management systems, airports, ports shipping and harbours.
Estuary	The CM Act defines as any part of a river, lake, lagoon, or coastal creek whose level is periodically or intermittently affected by coastal tides, up to the highest astronomical tide.
Extreme storm event	The storm for which characteristics (wave height, period, water level etc.) were derived by statistical 'extreme value' analysis. Typically, these are storms with average recurrence intervals (ARI) ranging from one to 100 years.
Fit for purpose	Right for the job it is intended to do. A fit for purpose assessment considers the level of data detail and the types of consultation required to make a reasonable management decision. In general, the detail and consultation required will increase with risk, complexity and impact.
Flood tide delta	Deposit of marine sediment (usually sand) within a coastal embayment that has formed at the landward side of a tidal inlet by rising (or flood) tidal currents and wave action.
Foredune	The larger and more mature dune lying between the incipient dune and the hind dune area. Foredune vegetation is characterised by grasses and shrubs. Foredunes provide an essential reserve of sand to meet the erosion demand during storm conditions. During storm events, the foredune can be eroded back to produce a pronounced dune scarp.



Term	Definition
Foreshore	The part of the shore, lying between the crest of the seaward berm (or upper limit of wave wash at high tide) and the ordinary low water mark, that is ordinarily traversed by the uprush and backrush of the waves as the tides rise and fall; or the beach face, the portion of the shore extending from the low water line up to the limit of wave uprush at high tide. The CM Act defines the foreshore as 'the area of land between highest astronomical tide and the lowest astronomical tide'.
Geomorphology	A branch of physical geography encompassing the formation of the earth's surface, including the distribution of land and water.
Geotechnical investigations	Subsurface investigation of soils, rock, and other strata for the purposes of engineering design.
Groyne	A shore protection structure built (usually perpendicular to the shoreline) to trap littoral drift or retard erosion of the shore; or a narrow, roughly shore normal structure built to reduce longshore currents, and/or to trap and retain littoral material. Most groynes are of timber or rock and extend from a seawall, or the backshore, well onto the foreshore and rarely even further offshore.
GSC	Geotextile Sand Container. A sand filled container made out of a synthetic geotextile synthetic fabric which may be woven or non woven.
HHWSS	High High Water Solstice Springs. The HHWSS tidal plane was originally defined as the level beyond which tides seldom reach. It is consistent with predicted levels for higher (king) tides but is slightly lower than highest astronomical tide (HAT).
Hydrodynamic	Relates to the specific scientific principles that deal with the motion of fluids and the forces acting on solid bodies immersed in fluids, and in motion relative to them.
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation.
ICOLL	Intermittently Closed and Open Lakes and Lagoons. Coastal lakes and lagoons where the entrance may be closed to the sea from time to time and for varying periods, by accretion of a berm. ICOLLs have sensitive water quality because they accumulate loads of sediment and nutrients from the catchment and may have poor water circulation and flushing. The most sensitive waterways listed in the R&H SEPP are all ICOLLs. The catchments of these lakes and lagoons are included in the coastal environment area.
Impacts	Include damage, harm or losses to exposed communities, property, services, livelihoods, access, use and amenity, heritage, ecosystems and the environment because of exposure and sensitivity. Impacts may also be positive.
Incipient dune	The most seaward and immature dune of the dune system. Vegetation characterised by grasses such as spinifex. On an accreting coastline, the incipient dune will develop into a foredune.
Intertidal zone	The region of the foreshore that is above the water at LAT but submerged at HAT.
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. A scientific and intergovernmental body under the auspices of the United Nations, set up at the request of member governments, dedicated to the task of providing the world with an objective, scientific view of climate change and its political and economic impacts.
IP&R	NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
King tides	Any high water level that is well above the average, commonly applied to two spring tides that are the highest for the year, one during summer and one in winter.



Term	Definition
LALC	A Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) in New South Wales, Australia, is a statutory body established under the New South Wales <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> . These councils are created to represent the interests and needs of the local Aboriginal communities within their respective areas. The primary purpose of Local Aboriginal Land Councils is to acquire, hold, and manage land on behalf of the Aboriginal people in their local areas.
LEP	Local Environmental Plan.
LG Act	<i>The Local Government Act 1993</i>
LGA	Local Government Area.
Littoral	Of or pertaining to a shore, especially of the sea. Often used as a general term for the coastal zone influenced by wave action, or, more specifically, the shore zone between the high and low water marks.
Littoral rainforest	A closed forest ecological community recognised by its close proximity to the ocean (generally <2km) and closed canopy (i.e., ~70% of the sky obscured by tree leaves and limbs). Listed as an endangered ecological community under the <i>NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> . Littoral rainforest areas are mapped with coastal wetlands in the R&H SEPP, to form the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests management area. Development controls apply to the management area and a proximity area which is also mapped.
LLS	NSW Local Land Services.
Longshore transport (littoral drift)	Refers to the sediment moved along a coastline under the action of wave-induced longshore currents. The net drift is the sum of the positive (conventionally northwards direction in NSW) and negative (southwards in NSW) direction. The gross drift is the sum of the drift magnitudes (absolute values). The differential drift is the difference between the net drift into and out of a coastal compartment. Both gross and net drift are typically averaged over a year and expressed in m ³ /yr.
Maintenance costs	Expenditures required to preserve the functional condition and performance of an asset over its design life. Maintenance costs include inspections, servicing, repairs, and minor renewals undertaken to mitigate deterioration, sustain safety and compliance, and avoid premature capital replacement.
Marine estate	The <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> defines it as: (a) the coastal waters of the State within the meaning of Part 10 of the <i>Interpretation Act 1987</i> , (b) estuaries (being any part of a river whose level is periodically or intermittently affected by coastal tides) up to the highest astronomical tide, (c) lakes, lagoons and other partially enclosed bodies of water that are permanently, periodically or intermittently open to the sea, (d) coastal wetlands (including saltmarsh, mangroves and seagrass), (e) lands immediately adjacent to, or in the immediate proximity of, the coastal waters of the State that are subject to oceanic processes (including beaches, dunes, headlands and rock platforms), (f) any other place or thing declared by the regulations to be the marine estate, but does not include any place or thing declared by the regulations not to be the marine estate.



Term	Definition
MCA	Multi-criteria analysis. A decision-making methodology used to evaluate and compare multiple options or alternatives based on a set of diverse and often conflicting criteria. It enables a systematic approach to complex decision processes by assigning weights to these criteria to reflect their relative importance. MCA helps decision-makers assess the trade-offs and make informed choices, considering a variety of factors, such as cost, environmental impact, social implications, and more. This method assists in addressing decisions that involve multiple objectives, enabling a structured and transparent evaluation process that supports rational and well-informed decision-making.
MEMA	Marine Estate Management Authority.
MEMS	Marine Estate Management Strategy.
MER	Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. MER is an essential component of any CMP and is a mandatory requirement for CMPs under the CM Act. The purpose of the MER component is to monitor progress towards implementing the coastal management actions outlined in the CMP, and to assess the performance of the CMP in achieving its intended outcomes, and the objects of the CM Act.
MHW	Mean high water mark – the line of the medium high tide between the highest tide each lunar month (the springs) and the lowest tide each lunar month (the neap) averaged over out over the year. In NSW, the methods for determining the position of the MHWM are outlined in the Crown Directions to Surveyors - No. 6 Water as a Boundary.
MIDO	The NSW Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office.
MSL	Mean Sea Level. The mean level of the sea over a long period (preferably 18.6 years) or the mean level which would exist in the absence of tides.
Multi-criteria analysis	A logical and structured decision-making tool for complex problems involving multiple factors or criteria, where a consensus is difficult to achieve. It may involve processes such as ranking, rating (with relative or ordinal scales) or pairwise comparisons. The process allows participants to consider, discuss and test complex trade-offs among alternatives.
Natural character	Includes all-natural aspects of the land and sea, including the underlying ecological, hydrological and geomorphological processes that shape landforms (including underwater features) and the natural movements of water and sediment. Natural character also includes aspects of the environment that affect human experience including the natural darkness of the night sky, the sounds and smell of the coast, and the context and setting of natural places.
Near shore	The area of ocean close to the coast that is affected by waves, tides and longshore currents.
No or low regrets actions	Options which would be justified under any plausible future scenario (i.e., they are best practice in any circumstance), and similarly, actions which require only moderate investment to achieve a beneficial outcome.
NPV	Net Present Value, the difference between the present value of cash inflows and the present value of cash outflows over a period of time.
NPWS	The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
NSW	New South Wales.
NSW Coastal Council	Established under Part 4 of the CM Act. A group of 3 to 7 coastal experts, appointed by the Minister to provide advice on coastal management issues.



Term	Definition
Operational Costs	Recurrent expenditures associated with the routine operation of programs, systems, or assets. This includes staffing, administration, utilities, and other resource inputs required to maintain functional delivery of CMP initiatives. Operational costs are ongoing and do not directly extend the service life of an asset.
Outflanking or end effects	Erosion behind or around the land-based end of a groyne, jetty, or breakwater or the terminus of a revetment or seawall, usually causing failure of the structure or its function.
Overwash	The part of the wave uprush that runs over the crest of a berm or structure and does not flow directly back to the ocean or lake. When waves overtop a coastal protection structure, they often carry sediment landwards, which is then lost to the beach system. Also defines a process in which waves penetrate inland of the beach, which is common on low barriers.
Progradation	The building forward or outward toward the sea of a shoreline or coastline (as with a beach, delta, or fan) by nearshore deposition of river-borne sediments or by continuous accumulation of beach material thrown up by waves or moved by longshore drifting.
Public Authority	Defined in the CM Act as a Minister of the Crown of the State, a State owned corporation, an electricity supply authority, a department or instrumentality of the State, a local council and any other public or local authority constituted by or under any Act and includes any prescribed body.
Recession	A continuing landward movement of the shoreline; or a net landward movement of the shoreline over a specified time.
Resilience	The ability of a system (human or natural) to adapt to changing conditions (including hazards or threats, variability, and extremes), and rapidly recover from disruption due to emergencies. Resilient systems or communities have the capacity to 'bounce back' after a disrupting event such as a major storm or an extended heat wave, to moderate potential damages, take advantage of opportunities, maintain, or restore function or to cope with the consequences.
Revetment or seawall	A type of coastal protection works which protects assets from coastal erosion by armouring the shore with erosion-resistant material. Large rocks/boulders, concrete or other hard materials are used, depending on the specific design requirements.
R&H SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021.
Risk	Chance of something happening that will have an impact. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood.
Sea level rise	An increase in the mean level of the oceans. Relative sea level occurs where there is a local increase in the level of the ocean relative to the land, which might be caused by ocean rising, the land subsiding, or both. In areas with rapid land level uplift (e.g., seismically active areas), relative sea level can fall.
Sediment transport	The process whereby sediment is moved offshore, onshore or along shore by wave, current or wind action.
Sediment Compartment	A sediment compartment is an area in which coastal processes, and their effects on the geology of the coast, are broadly homogeneous. The compartment boundary is usually a feature such as a headland or river mouth which effectively divides the compartment and its processes from its neighbour.
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy.
Shoreline recession	Refers to continuing landward movement of the shoreline, that is, a net landward movement of the shoreline, generally assessed over a period of several years. As shoreline recession occurs the beach fluctuation zone is translated landward.



Term	Definition
Significant wave height (Hs)	Due to the random nature and size of waves, the term “significant wave height” is used by engineers and scientists to quantify wave heights in a sea state. It represents the average of all the third highest waves that occur over a particular timeframe. It is typically written as Hs. It is important to appreciate that in deep offshore waters the largest individual wave in the sea state may be around twice the significant wave height
Stakeholder	A person or organisation with an interest or concern in something.
Storm demand	Storm demand is the volume of beach sand eroded from the subaerial (visible) part of the beach and dunes during a storm. Typically, it has been defined as the volume of eroded sand as measured above mean sea level (~ 0 m AHD datum).
Storm surge	The increase in coastal water levels caused by the barometric and wind set-up effects of storms. Barometric set-up refers to the increase in coastal water levels associated with the lower atmospheric pressure of storms. Wind set-up refers to the increase in coastal water levels caused by an onshore wind driving water shorewards and piling it up against the coast.
Storm tides	The total observed sea level during a storm, which is the combination of storm surge and normal astronomical tide.
Storm tide inundation	Flooding of coastal land due to inundation from storm tides. Inundation generally persists for the duration of a high tide, though it may persist longer in extreme cases.
Subaerial	On the earth’s surface, not underwater or underground.
TfNSW	Transport for NSW.
Tidal currents	Currents caused by the incoming (ebb) or outgoing (flood) tide (see Tide). Tidal currents are typically the main current within estuaries, particularly in the entrance area where tidal currents transport marine sediments (sand).
Tidal inundation	The inundation of land by tidal action under average meteorological conditions and the incursion of sea water onto low lying land that is not normally inundated, during a high sea level event such as a king tide or due to longer-term sea level rise. Sometimes referred to as “sunny day flooding”.
Tide	The periodic rise and fall of the water of oceans, seas, bays, etc., caused mainly by the gravitational interactions between the Earth, Moon and Sun.
Tolerable risk	A risk that, following an understanding of the likelihood and consequences, is low enough to allow the exposure to continue, and at the same time high enough to require new treatments or actions to reduce risk. Society can live with this risk but believe that as much as is reasonably practical should be done to reduce the risks further. Note that individuals may find this risk unacceptable and choose to take their own steps, within reason, to make this risk acceptable. Residual risks are considered tolerable only if risk reduction is impractical.
Trigger	Pre-negotiated decision-making points and commitments, so that action on coastal risks is taken when necessary, and when it is most convenient and affordable for the affected community.



Term	Definition
Vulnerability	A function of exposure and sensitivity of assets to a hazard, which determines the potential impacts of the hazard. For instance, the vulnerability of coastal assets may be influenced by the extent and impact of environmental, social and economic factors such as saline contamination of soils from flooding, erosion of built-up and natural areas, loss of vegetation, disruption to use, or access, or continuity of service, or loss of amenity, corrosion of built structures, undermining of foundations or damage to contents. Vulnerability also considers the adaptive capacity which is the capacity to adapt or the resilience in the system to manage the impacts and changes.
Wave climate	The seasonal and annual distribution of wave height, period and direction.
Wave energy	The capacity of waves to do work. The energy of a wave system is theoretically proportional to the square of the wave height; a high-energy coast is characterised by breaker heights greater than 50 centimetres and a low-energy coast is characterised by breaker heights less than 10 centimetres. Most of the wave energy along equilibrium beaches is used in shoaling and in sand movement. The NSW coast is a high wave energy coast.
Wave Height (H)	The vertical difference between the elevation of a wave crest and a neighbouring trough.
Wave Length (L)	The horizontal distance between two wave crests.
Wave Period (T)	The time it takes for two successive wave crests to pass a given point.
Wave run-up	The vertical distance above mean water level reached by the uprush of water from waves across a beach or up a structure.
Wave set-up	The rise in the water level above the still water level when a wave reaches the coast. It can be very important during storm events as it results in further increases in water level above the tide and surge levels.
Zone of reduced foundation capacity (ZRFC)	A Zone of Reduced Foundation Capacity (ZRFC) for building foundations is delineated to take account of the reduced bearing capacity of the sand adjacent to the storm erosion escarpment. Nielsen et al (1992) recommended that structural loads should only be transmitted to soil foundations outside of this zone (i.e., landward, or below), as the factor of safety within the zone is less than 1.5 during extreme scour conditions at the face of the escarpment.
Zone of slope adjustment (ZSA)	The area landward of an escarpment cut by storm bite, which may be affected by slumping to the angle of repose of the sand as it dries.

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