



Draft coastal hazard response plan

Sandon River campground, Yuraygir National Park



Coastal hazards at Sandon River

Many NSW coastal areas already experience flooding during higher tides. Coastal erosion and the recession of sandy beaches are impacting coastal ecosystems and infrastructure.

The campground at Sandon River also faces these coastal hazard challenges, threatening the use of the campgrounds and the natural and cultural values. A hazard assessment and options report has been prepared for Sandon River campground.

Coastal hazards are impacting the campground now and are expected to increase:

- **Inundation** from both the Sandon River and ocean tides is currently impacting the campground access road and expected to increase by 2043.
- **Coastal erosion** is expected to impact the campground by 2043.

Proactive planning for the future

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is taking proactive steps to manage coastal hazards at Sandon River campground and has prepared a draft coastal hazard response plan to assess and identify approaches to mitigate coastal hazard risks.

- Potential short, medium and long-term management options have been considered and a preferred option recommended.
- A multi-criteria analysis of options has been completed considering environmental, cultural, social, recreational, and financial factors.

Given the campground's low-lying position, options to protect against coastal and river inundation would be extremely costly and create significant environmental impacts.

The preferred option recommended is **adaptive management**.

What does adaptive management mean at Sandon River?

Adaptive management recognises the long-term hazards but aims to maximise the lifespan of the campground using nature-based techniques.

Dune and riverbank stabilisation and revegetation

Sandon River beach dunes will be planted with native dune species. The existing dune fencing will be improved to maximise sand trapping. Erosion impacts will be managed in the short term but this measure does not address coastal or river inundation.

Planning for retreat

Retreat planning will identify thresholds and trigger points for when the site is no longer viable and when infrastructure should be removed, expected to be in the next 10 to 15 years. It would also involve investigating potential alternative uses for the site with less infrastructure.



The draft Sandon River campground coastal hazard response plan is available for public feedback until 29 July 2024. View the plan and make an online submission at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coastal-hazard-response-plans or email: npws.carbonandrestoration@environment.nsw.gov.au

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