Planning for Change: Integrating coastal retreat in adaptation planning

Local Government Research and Development Scheme

URPS, SA Coastal Councils Alliance and Adelaide Coastal Councils Network

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SHAPING GREAT COMMUNITIES

Local Government Research and Development Scheme

Successfully applied for and received funding from the Local Government Research and Development Scheme to undertake this project

A collaboration between:

- SA Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA)
- Adelaide Coastal Councils Network (ACCN)
- URPS

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Why this project?

Coastal retreat is about the withdrawal, relocation or abandonment of assets at risk and enabling ecosystems to retreat landward

Retreat is one of the ‘tools’ available for best practice coastal adaptation planning

Stage Four of the South Australian Coastal Hazard Adaptation Planning process involves the identification and assessment of adaptation options including retreat

- To identify the most appropriate options, detailed information on the social, environmental and economic costs and benefits are required

We are seeing the impacts of climate change on our coasts

Photo credit: ABC news

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What is the future we want?

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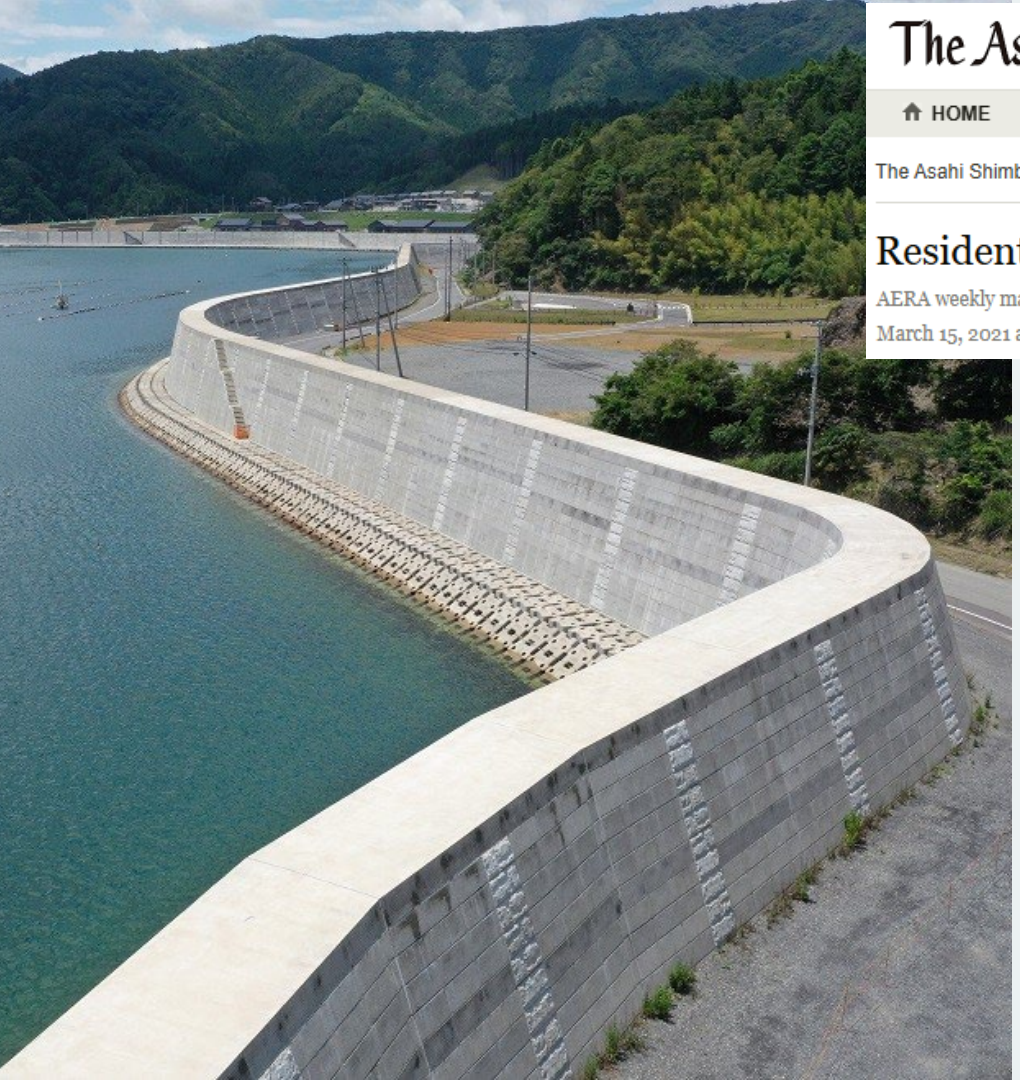

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Residents lose coastal vistas to fortress-like tsunami walls

AERA weekly magazine

March 15, 2021 at 10:30 JST

Photo credit: Asahi Shimbun, asahi.com

Or would you rather this?

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But can you imagine planning for retreat here?

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Why this project?

Coastal retreat as an adaptation option can be challenging to assess due to:

- Need to plan for the longer term and likely implement over many years
- Limited capacity of council teams in understanding the costs and benefits
- The complexity of asset and land ownership
- Interaction with state planning processes
- Uncertainty in the rate of change of coastal and social issues into the future

There is a gap in the availability of more detailed guidance about approaches to retreat

What will be delivered by the project?

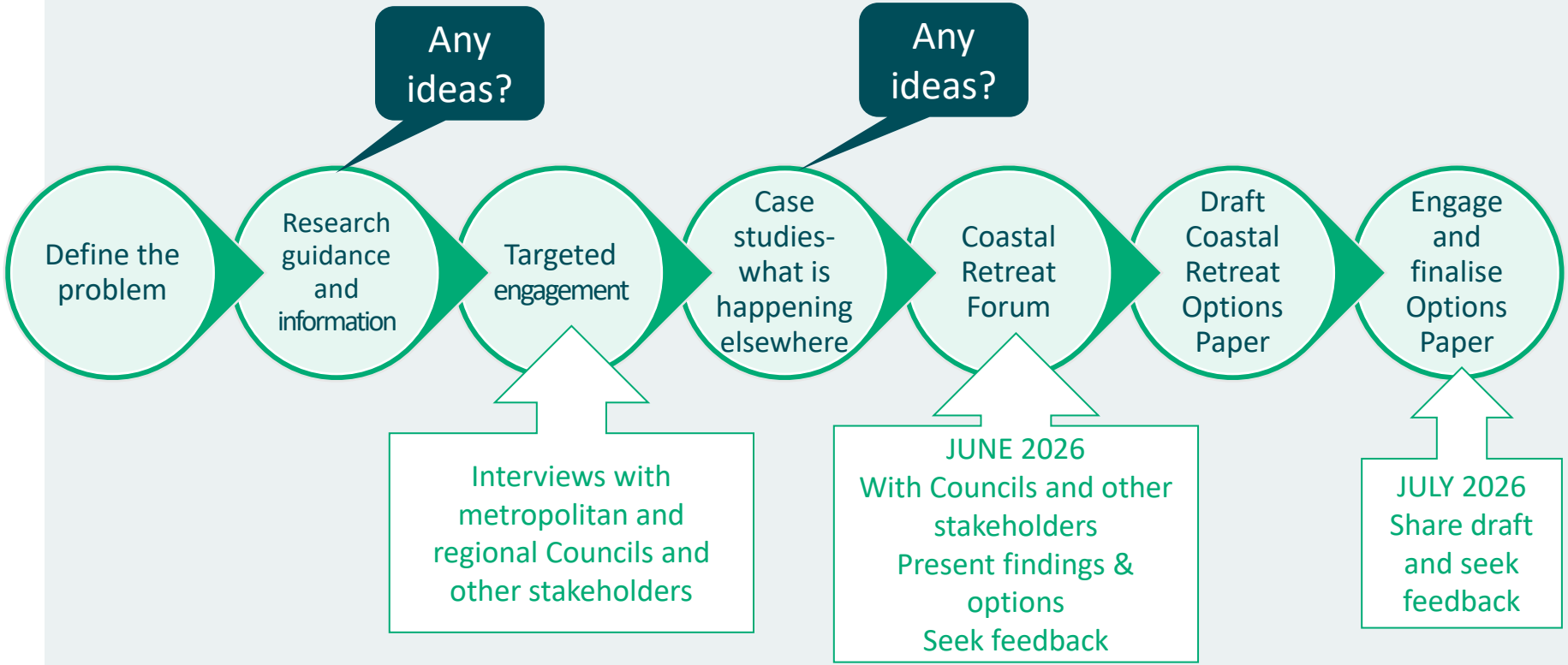
Key deliverable is an Options Paper that can serve as a resource and used for advocacy

Will build on and add value to the Climate Ready Coasts program, Coastal Hazard Adaptation Planning Guidelines and Adaptation Actions Compendium that supports councils to:

- Consider retreat scenarios
- Engage communities
- Navigate the complex and legal considerations

Not a prescriptive toolkit but a strategic document that enables exploration of retreat as part of the broader adaptation planning process

How will the project be undertaken?



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Have something to contribute?

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CoastalRetreat

Thank you

Any questions?