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The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the New South Wales Government.

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Term	Definition and Description
Beach	A coastal deposit of sediment, generally of sand or pebble size, that extends landward from the lowest astronomical tide level to the line of vegetation/bedrock/structure.
Beach nourishment	The practice of adding large quantities of sand or sediment to beaches to combat erosion and/or increase beach width and volume.
Coastal Accommodation Business (CAB)	An accommodation-oriented business (e.g. caravan park, tourist park, motel) located proximally to coastal waters.
Coastal community	A group of people who share an interest in the coast regardless of their geographic location and type of coastal usage.
Coastal environment	An environment, or set of environments, where marine and terrestrial areas influence each other – these include (but are not limited to) beaches, estuaries, and rock platforms.
Coastal erosion	The loss of sand and/or sediment from coastal shorelines (e.g. beaches, dunes, cliffs) in the form of a reduction in volume and/or width. It may be episodic or long-term.
Coastal 'Frontline' resident	Members of the public who reside on beachfront and/or shoreline residential properties along known coastal erosion 'hot spot' locations.
Coastal Indigenous community	An Indigenous community that identifies the coast as part of their cultural identity.
Coastal Management Professional (CMP)	A person who works in the area of coastal management – this may include coastal C

Developed estuaries	Estuaries characterised by building and/or engineered infrastructure, situated along, or behind, the coastline.
Dune maintenance and/or management	Maintaining, stabilising and/or reinforcing (e.g. through planting vegetation) a coastal sand dune system.

E 31(

Retreat (management

of people who use the NSW coast and consisted of 6 sub-communities that were surveyed individually: i) NSW primary and secondary school teachers; ii) NSW Surf Lifesaving Club members; iii) coastal accommodation tourists; iv) Indigenous coastal community members; v) coastal Council employees; and vi) NSW 'Frontline' residents (those located directly on coastlines identified as at risk of coastal erosion; and 3. Coastal Accommodation Businesses (CABs), who were owners, managers or employees of accommodation businesses (e.g. caravan parks) situated close to the coast.

1.1 Key Findings

The surveys conducted in this project generated a considerable amount of data describing how respondents perceive coastal hazards, coastal risks, various aspects of coastal management, and how these will impact on their interactions with the coast in the future. Data is available upon request. Key findings from these surveys are summarised in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1

Coastal Hazards

Sea level rise

	67% think the occurrence of coastal inundation will increase over the next 20 years, with 20% stating it will stay the same and 13% unsure of how, or if, it will change; Developed beaches, followed by developed estuaries and sand dunes, were identified as the coastal environments most at risk of coastal inundation.

Coastal Management

Solutions

General Coastal Users

48% have little or no confidence in their local Council in terms of managing the coastal environment;

48% think that not enough action is being taken to manage the effects of coastal inundation; 23% think enough action is being taken and 29% don't know;

59% do not think enough action is being taken to manage the effects of erosion; 13% think present action is adequate and 28% are unsure;

Maintaining sand dunes, relocating buildings at risk and government buyback ranked as the three best management options to manage damage by inundation;

Maintaining dunes, relocating buildings at risk and seawalls ranked as the best management options to manage damage by erosion.

Coastal Accommodation Businesses

49% of respondents have little or no confidence in their local Council's management of the coastal environment;

39% of surveyed businesses are presently protected by coastal protection initiatives. Of these, 59% stated that they are satisfied with the protection in place;

Maintaining dunes, building a seawall and relocating buildings at risk ranked as the best options to manage .gue95.45 r165.5 82.93 6(

1.2 Recommendations

The results of this study have identified areas of differing understandings and perceptions across diverse members of the NSW ‘coastal community’. By design, this study was broad in nature, both in terms of geographic data collection (NSW coast-wide) and subject matter: hazard understanding, risk perception, understanding and preference of coastal management options and sources of learned information. The results presented in this study are therefore statistically descriptive and while this provides an overall picture of the sample group, it does

Table 1.3 Guide to report structure showing chapters and 'Fact Files' colour coded by theme and a general description of chapter content.

Chapter	Description
2. Introduction	Motivation of study; Aims and objectives; Location of study.
3. Background	Literature review; Definition of coastal communities; Research of survey designs; Identified knowledge gaps.
4. Methods	Design and dissemination of survey tools; Challenges and limitations.
5. Fact Files	
5.1. Survey 1: Coastal Management Professionals (CMPs)	Who they are; Where they work; Perceptions of coastal risk.
5.2 Survey 2: General Coastal Users (GCUs)	Who they are;

5.10 Coastal Erosion	Coastal management professionals' perceptions of community awareness; General coastal user/accommodation businesses understanding of coastal erosion; Perceptions of rate of change and impact.
5.11 Coastal Management	General coastal users' confidence in local Council; Satisfaction levels of actions taken to manage erosion and inundation; Accommodation business respondent's; satisfaction of coastal protection initiatives; perceptions of which management strategies (soft/hard/retreat) are best for each hazard.
5.12 Who Wants to Live in a Beachfront Property?	Qualitative answers to '*would you buy and live in this house?*' and '*how would you protect your property*'; Perceptions of the risks of living in waterfront properties.
5.13 Who Should P	

Introduction

In June 2016, large storm waves

2.2 Location of Study

This project was conducted between April 2017 and December 2018 with surveys distributed both online and face to face across the NSW coastal region (Figure 2.1). For a full list of survey sites and response rates, see *Research Design and Methods* (Section 4).

a) **b)**

Figure 2.1 a) Australia with Sydney identified with blue circle; **b)** The NSW coast divided into four regions; South East, Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast (NSW Local Land Services, 2018).

Areas such as Collaroy/Narrabeen are particularly exposed and differentially vulnerable to coastal hazards. As part of the reforms to coastal management, culminating in the NSW *Coastal Management Act 2016*, a new definition of coastal zone was established. One of the specific coastal management areas that make up the new coastal zone is the *'coastal vulnerability area'* (OEH,

Barnett *et al*. (2013) also noted that many of the study's respondents mentioned a '*gap in information*' as a barrier to adaptation to sea level rise. Local government responders highlighted a lack of information tailored to local contexts and all respondent groups indicated a lack of relevant, reliable, consistent and easily comprehensible climate projections, to assist with acceptance to adaption efforts (Barnett *et al.* 2013). Some respondents noted a lack of ability to

3.8 Key knowledge gaps

While there is literature available which measures public perceptions of coastal adaptation options (Barnett *et al.* 2013) and understanding(s) of climate change (Bulkeley 2000; Ryan *et al.* 2011; Moser and Dilling, 2011; Buckley *et al*. 2017), to date, there have been no studies in NSW that seek to define coastal communities' understanding of coastal erosion, coastal inundation and how these hazards interact with severe coastal storms and rising sea levels. This suggests that past community engagement efforts relating to these specific hazards may have been flawed from the start, as the information communicated may not have been the same information received. By assessing the 'mental models', or differing understandings of coastal hazards, of NSW Coastal Communities, this study aims to provide information about differences and 'gaps' in community knowledge, which can be used to help NSW coastal management professionals to better prepare NSW coastal users to adapt to coastal changes influenced by climate change.

4

Table 4.1 Rationale for selection of the six General Coastal User sub-groups (communities).

Survey Group	Rationale
Teachers (Primary and High school)	Varying levels of interaction with the coast Highly accessible Demographically diverse

Table 4.2

Table 4.3 Distribution timeline of surveys by group and distribution method.

Surveyed Group	Distribution Method	Dates
1. Coastal Management Professionals (CMPs)	Online; direct email	07/01/17 – 01/01/18
2. General Coastal Users (GCUs)		
Teachers	Online; direct email to schools and social media	15/11/17 – 31/01/18
Surf Life Saving Club members	Online; direct email to clubs and social media	21/11/17 – 20/04/18
Coastal tourists (Table 1.3)		

Table 4.4 Distribution

community is not simply people who live within a certain distance of the coast, but rather encompasses a large number of communities of place and communities of interest, made up of people who utilise the coastal zone in different ways, both temporally and spatially (see Section 3.5). As it was logistically impossible to survey every community along the NSW coastline, a selection of different communities of place and of interest were ultimately chosen that collectively would represent a broad range of NSW coastal users (Table 4.1).

In this way, we were also able to gather information from coastal users who may not otherwise had their opinions and perceptions recorded. By ch1 0 6p.3a4ing5(es)f-14(r)m(ery)6( )] TJETQq0.0000088

5. Fact Files

The key findings of this study have been grouped into a total of 15 ‘Fact Files’ that provide snapshots of key elements of the study. The purpose of structuring the findings this way is to allow different use0 G[(al)6(l)5(o)-8(w)15( )-58(di)6(f)-4(f)-4(eren)12(t)6( )-58(use) 595.32 841.92 reW* nBT

Fact File 1: Coastal Management Professionals (CMPs)

The Coastal Management Professionals (CMPs) survey was launched at the 2017 New South

Coastal risk

Most (87%) CMPs indicated that some of the area in which they work is at risk of coastal erosion or coastal inundation. Only 10% did not know if there was an area at risk within the region of their work. When asked to elaborate about the level of risk posed to the coast in which they work, more than half of CMPs indicated it was either ‘high’ or ‘extreme’ (Figure 5.2). In conjunction, 70% of CMPs did not think enough priority was given to reducing the risk of coastal inundation and erosion along the NSW coast in general, and 63% thought not enough was given to reducing these risks within their local government area (Box 5.1).

Perceptions

One of the main objectives of this survey was to measure Coastal Management . In conjunction

c

Box 5.2

Box 5.3 CMP short answers regarding perceived challenges of risk communication in relation to coastal erosion and coastal inundation.

Q10. In your opinion, what are the main RISK COMMUNICATION challenges you face when dealing with the general coastal community in relation to coastal hazards

Fact File 2: General Coastal Users (GCUs)

As the coastal community is not just one homogenous group, but rather a collection of smaller,

‘Frontline’ residents (2%, n=23) and coastal Indigenous communities (1%, n=16). The overall GCU cohort was characterised by a normal age group distribution (Figure 5.4a) with more female (56%) than male (42%) respondents. In terms of residence location with respect to the coast, approximately 33% of GCUs lived within 1 km, 35% between 1km and 10km and 32% more than 10km away from the coast (Figure 5.4b). The majority of GCUs indicated they visit the coast either every day or at least once a week (Figure 5.4c) with beaches being the most common type of coastline utilised (Figure 5.4d).

a)

b)

c)

d)

Figure 5.4 Demographics and coastal usage of the General Coastal Users (GCU): **a)** age distribution; **b)** residential distance from coast; **c)** frequency of coastal usage; and **d)** type of coast visited.

Future Expectations

The survey included a question that provided a range of different types of natural hazards (Figure 5.5) and asked, '*how much of a risk do you think the following hazards will pose to you within the next 20 years*?'. More than 60% of the GCUs ranked erosion as being either a high or extremely high risk (Figure 5.5). Coastal storms and heatwaves were considered as the next greatest risks. Approximately 55% of respondents ranked sea level rise as either a high or extremely high risk. Although coastal cliff collapse was ranked as representing the lowest risk respectively, 30% of respondents still ranked it as either a high or extremely high risk (Figure 5.5).

Figure 5.5 Ranked perceptions by the General Coastal Users (GCUs) of risks posed by different natural hazards

as coastal erosion and inundation, which may have more of a direct impact on the future use of the NSW coast than pollution or plastics.

Development

'*Development*' was the most common theme chosen by GCUs in terms of what they perceived as the biggest threat to their future use of the coast (Figure 5.6). Many respondents stated

environments. The results of the GCU survey show that a growth in population is something that already concerns NSW coastal users, with strong negative perceptions of development and overpopulation in coastal areas.

Policy and economics

Connected to the themes of '*development*' and '*population growth*' were concerns surrounding policy and economically driven motives. Some respondents linked development to monetarily motivated decision-making; '*mismanagement/destruction resulting from ill informed decisions by people who put short term gain and financial benefits ahead of looking after the environment*' (GCU 785). Others considered large organisations and their presence on the coast to be a detriment, i.e. '*large organisations with no concern for the general public and full interest in money'* (GCU 737), while others linked tourism with crowded beaches '*oversaturation of the tourist market, where the sole focus of local governing bodies is mainly on maximising profits instead of providing adequate funding to coastal protection'* (GCU 980).

'Short-sighted decisions by governments' (GCU 347)

Climate Change, sea level rise and coastal hazards

Climate change was a central theme to most respondents' answers. This was often in conjunction with sea level rise, erosion, an increase in storm frequency or intensity and flooding; *'sea erosion due to climate change'* (GCU 158), '*increased storm events as a result of climate change'* (GCU 269) and *'climate change resulting from the enhanced greenhouse effect'* (GCU 913). However, some respondents saw climate change, sea level rise and coastal hazards as mutually exclusive issues; *'not sea level rise; (but) erosion due to storm surges*' (GCU 855). This suggests there may be some gaps in knowledge regarding how sea level rise may affect erosion, inundation, coastal storms and associated hazards.

'Climate change leading to storms and … beach erosion' (GCU 534)

Reduced Quality

Another theme highlighted by the GCUs was a concern for future 'quality' of the coastline. This theme was often linked to ancillary concerns of population growth, such as '*excess rubbish and pollution due to increased population' (*GCU 365). The theme 'reduced quality' includes concerns about pollution, people '*not caring*' (GCU 31) or having a *'lack of respect*' (GCU 105) for the coastal environment as well as concerns for water quality and coastal access (GCU361). Pollution and water quality were often linked, with topics such as *'stormwater runoff*' (GCU360), '*dumping rubbish*' and '*proliferation of plastic in the environment*' representing risks to the future use of the coast (GCU 31; GCU 926).

'...mangroves are being replaced by housing (leading to) higher pollution, less fish and decreased clarity of water' (GCU 361)

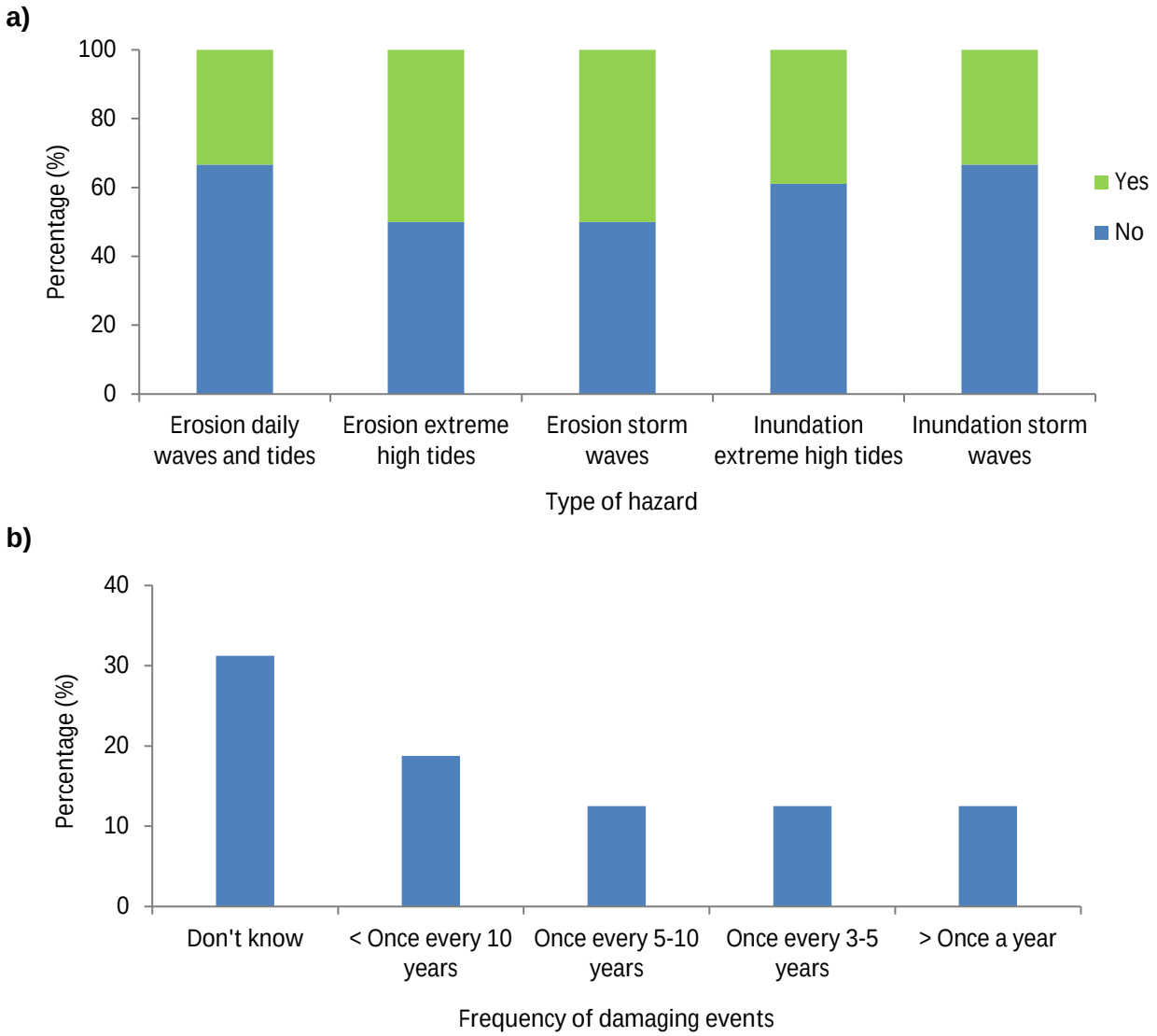


Figure 5.9 a) Coastal hazard experience of Collaroy/Narrabeen 'Frontline' residents'; **b)** Frequency of previous damaging events as experienced by this group.

Risk perception and understanding of hazards

When asked '*How much of a risk do you think the following hazards will pose to you within the next 20 years?*', more than 60% of the respondents ranked erosion as either a high or extremely high risk, followed by drought (60%), sea level rise (55%) and flooding (42%; Figure 5.10). Interestingly, erosion, flooding and sea level rise were perceived as representing a higher risk than coastal storms, even though most of the residents surveyed had experienced an East Coast Low event while residing at their current property. These results vary from the GCU group, who ranked coastal storms as the second most 'high risk' hazard, followed by heatwaves and sea level rise (Figure 5.5).

Figure 5.11 Coastal ‘Frontline’ resident opinions of the consequences of future sea level rise.

Coastal Storms

When asked about the perceived frequency of damaging coastal storms, more than 70% of the ‘Frontline’ residents think these events occur roughly once every 20 years or less (Figure 5.12). When compared to responses regarding how frequently their property is damaged, approximately 40% indicated at least once every ten years, which suggests that some don’t attribute storms to damage caused. Just over half (52%) of the residents think coastal storms will occur at the same rate as they always have over the next 20 years and 56% think they will cause the same amount of damage as they do presently. Combined with the perception that coastal storms pose less of a risk than other coastal hazards (Figure 5.10), this suggests that

Figure 5.14 Frontline' coastal residents understanding of contributing factors of coastal inundation.

Developed beaches and estuaries were the coastal environments identified by the 'Frontline' residents as being most at risk of damage caused by coastal inundation, followed by lagoons (Figure 5.15a). Similarly, developed beaches and estuaries were identifi

a)

b)

Fact File 4: Snapshot: Coastal Indigenous Communities

Who are they?

The Coastal Indigenous Communities group is a sub-community of the General Coastal Users' group and was targeted to gain insights into the perceptions of coastal Indigenous communities residing within NSW. Nura Gili, the centre for Indigenous programs at UNSW Sydney, assisted in the distribution of this survey through social media notifications to students and word of mouth to friends and family. The survey received 24 responses, 15 of which were used for analysis.

Demographics

As the survey was promoted through UNSW Sydney, respondents were of typical student age with 80% aged 18-24 and 20% aged 24-34. The majority (67%) lived within 5km of a coastal environment and over 50% stated they visit the coast at least once a week (Figure 5.16) with ocean beaches being the most frequently visited (85%) coastal environment.

Figure 5.16

Over 75% thought sea level rise was occurring, with 7% stating it was not and 15% being unsure. The majority of respondents thought sea level will rise somewhere between 50 cm and 1 m over the next 20 to 50 years (Figure 5.19a), which is higher than results of the GCU group (Figure 5.34). While not as prevalent in this small sample group, there is still evidence of a trend that sea level rise will affect other coastal areas more than coastal areas utilised by this focus group (Figure 5.19b

Coastal storms were the hazard ranked as posing the least risk by the Coastal Indigenous Community (Figure 5.18). When asked to identify how often severe coastal storms occur, over 50% of respondents indicated they occur at least once every 5 years (Figure 5.20a). Approximately 80% thought severe coastal storms will occur more often over the next 20 years and 75% think they will be more damaging. When asked to rank their opinion about the type of damage caused by severe coastal storms that concerns them the most, this group indicated interruption to utilities, pollution and damage to plants and animals to be of most concern (Figure 5.20b).

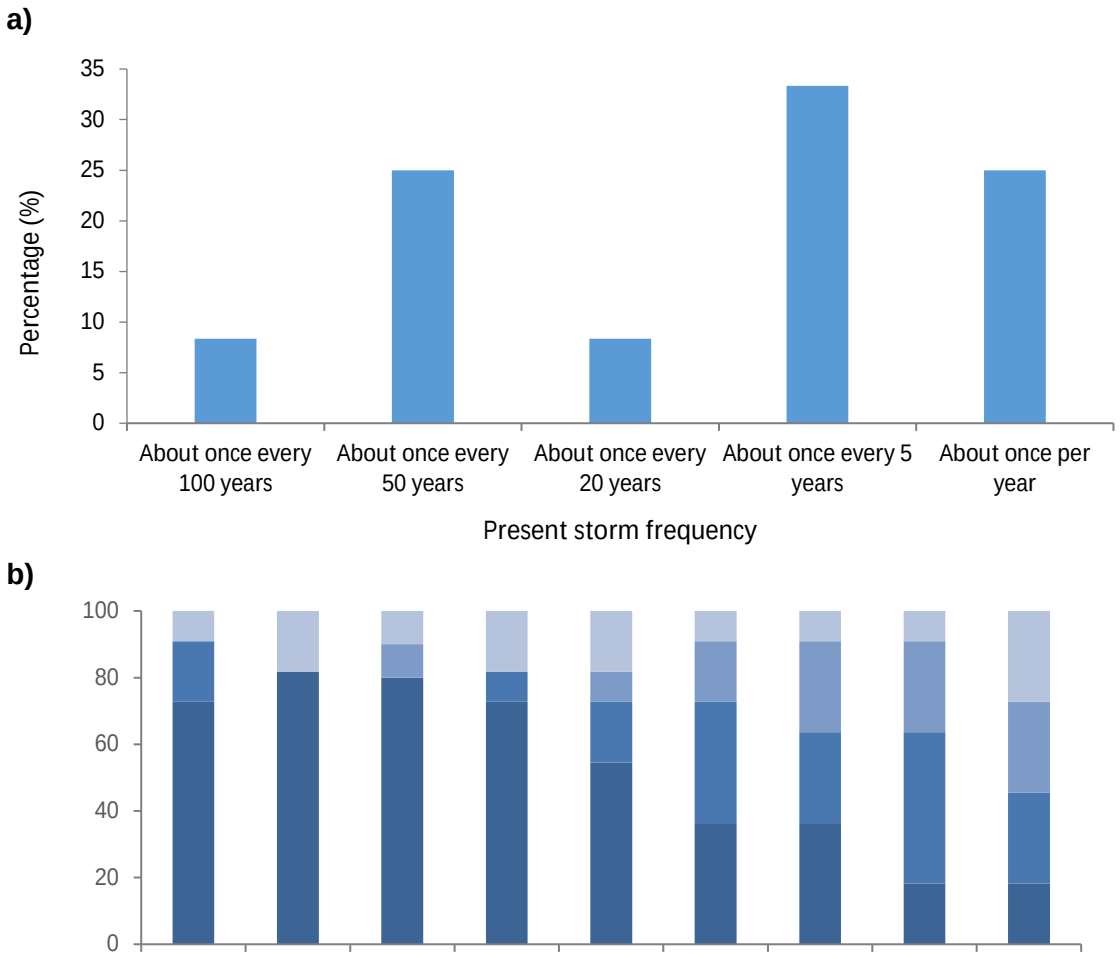


Figure 5.20 NSW Coastal Indigenous group: **a)** perceptions of the present rate of occurrence of severe coastal storms on the NSW coast; and **b)** concerns in relation to different types of damage caused by severe coastal storms.

Figure 5.26 Frequency of damage to coastal accommodation businesses caused by coastal hazards.

Previous Damage

Businesses that had experienced damage caused by coastal hazards were asked to provide details of the extent of the damage and the majority identified flood damage caused by a combination of storm driven heavy rains and high tides. For example, one respondent described a '*1 in 100 year flood – all caravans onsite are in flood-level (of inlet) so all vans flooded, several had to be replaced, damage to camping area*' (CAB55). Others described damage to '*guest's property*' (CAB29) and loss of revenue experienced after a period of heavy rain - '(a) *king tide, high tide and severe rain led to the creek that runs through the park to break banks and flood our holiday park (with) lots of debris left behind once water levels fell, (we suffered a) loss of business as campers/caravaners couldn't stay*' (CAB11). Erosion was also mentioned by a number of respondents; '*due to erosion, (the) site had to be redeveloped for tourists*'

Future Concerns

The CABs were asked to identify the 'biggest threat' to their business in relation to the future use of the coast. This qualitative data was then collated into themes and generated into a word cloud to demonstrate what coastal businesses are most concerned about (Figure 5.29). Similar to the General Coastal Users group (Figure 5.6), erosion, overdevelopment and population growth were mentioned frequently. In contrast, '*unsafe beaches*' was a concern expressed by Coastal Accommodation Businesses, but not by General Coastal Users.

Similar to the GCUs (Figure 5.6), '*increased tides*' and '*rising water tables*' were mentioned by the CABs as threats but were not generally expressed alongside '*sea level rise*', suggesting a potential conceptual confusion regarding the causes of water level fluctuations and how it may affect them. Flooding was mentioned more frequently by the CABs compared to the GCUs, likely due to many of the Coastal Accommodation Businesses being located proximally to estuarine environments (30%) and having previously experienced damage caused by flooding.

Figure 5.29 Word cloud based on responses by NSW Coastal Accommodation Businesses in regard to their perceived 'biggest threat' to coastal usage over the next 20 years.

understanding of how the NSW coastal community perceives how coastal hazards, exacerbated by climate change and sea level rise, will affect their future use of the NSW coast.

While many survey respondents note '*development*' and '*overuse*

Fact File 7:

The results of this study show that

Figure 5.34 Opinions about the magnitude of sea level rise over the next 20-50 years by General Coastal Users (GCUs) and Coastal Accommodation Businesses (CABs) in NSW.

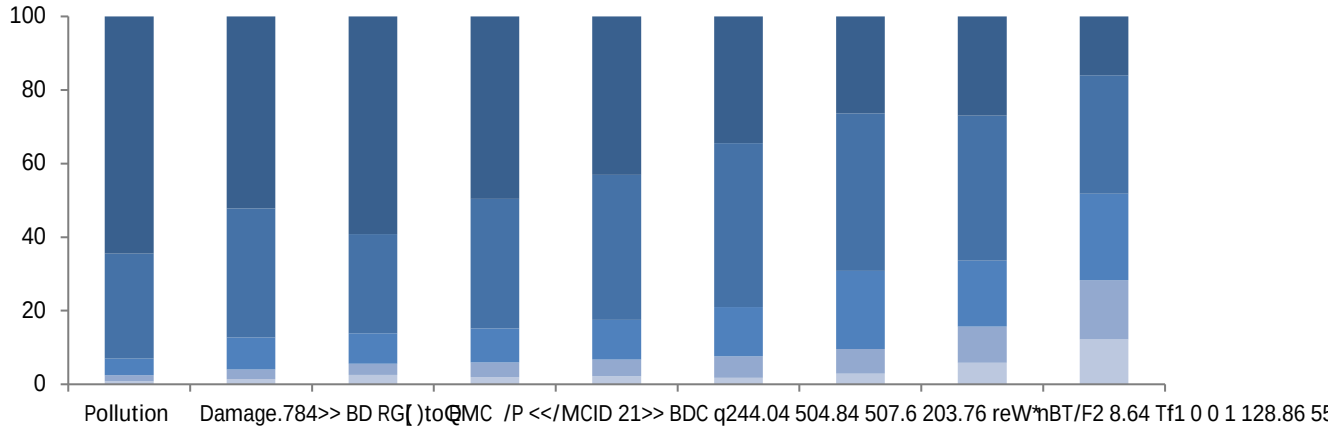
The findings of this study in relation to public perceptions of sea level rise are consistent with those of previous Australian studies. For example, the Victorian Coastal Council (2012) found that at least two thirds of interviewed residents in Victoria agreed that sea level rise is occurring and is a factor of global warming and that 40% of responden

In this study, similar to their perceptions about public understanding of other coastal hazards, less than 30% of the surveyed Coastal Management Professionals think that the NSW coastal community has a good understanding of coastal storms (Figure 5.36).

Figure 5.36 Coastal Management Professionals (CMPs) perceptions of the NSW community understanding of severe coastal storms in relation to other hazards.

Occurrence

a)



b)

Figure 5.38 Consequences of severe storms ranked in terms of level of concern by: **a)** NSW General Coastal Users (GCUs); and **b)** NSW Coastal Accommodation Businesses (CABs).

Perceptions of Coastal Management Professionals

Only 17% of the surveyed Coastal Management Professionals thought the NSW coastal community had a good or excellent understanding of coastal inundation (Figure 5.39).

a)

b)

Figure 5.40

Figure 5.41 Responses by General Coastal Users (GCUs) and Coastal Accommodation Businesses (CABs) in response to the question '*What do you consider to be the main causes of coastal inundation?*' Respondents were able to select more than one answer.

In terms of the future occurrence of inundation, the majority of all three survey groups (CMPs, GCUs, CABs) think it will increase over the next 20 years (Box 5.7). All tv106 0.475 RG[(F)-2(igu)-50CABs) t7

a)

b)

Figure

Fact File 10:

Perceptions of Coastal Management Professionals (CMPs)

Approximately 80% of the Coastal Management Professionals surveyed in this study think that the NSW coastline in which they work is at high or extreme risk of erosion (Figure 5.43a) and 93% believed that the chance of coastal erosion will increase over the next 20 years. These results show that CMPs view coastal erosion as a serious and growing issue with beaches, dunes and estuaries identified as the coastal environments most at risk. In comparison, less than 20% of the CMPs identified cliffs and coastal lagoons as being at risk (Figure 5.43b).

a)

b)

Box 5.8 Perceptions of the future frequency of coastal erosion in the next 20 years by General Coastal Users**,** Coastal Accommodation Businesses and Coastal Management Professionals in NSW.

Engagement

The Fact Files in this section describe the perceptions and understandings of each of the three survey groups regarding how the NSW coast is: i) managed in relation to coastal erosion and inundation; ii) where and how each group has previously received information about these coastal hazards;

Figure 5.47 Opinions of NSW General Coastal Users regarding the present state of action being taken

What does the NSW coastal community think about management strategies?

The NSW Coastal Accommodation Businesses surveyed in this study provided similar answers to the General Coastal Users, with the majority indicating that '*maintaining a sand dune*' was the best option for managing the effects of both coastal erosion and coastal inundation (Figure 5.50). However, the hard solution of constructing a seawall was considered the 'best' option for managing the effects of coastal inundation and erosion by 45% and 37% of the CABs respectively.

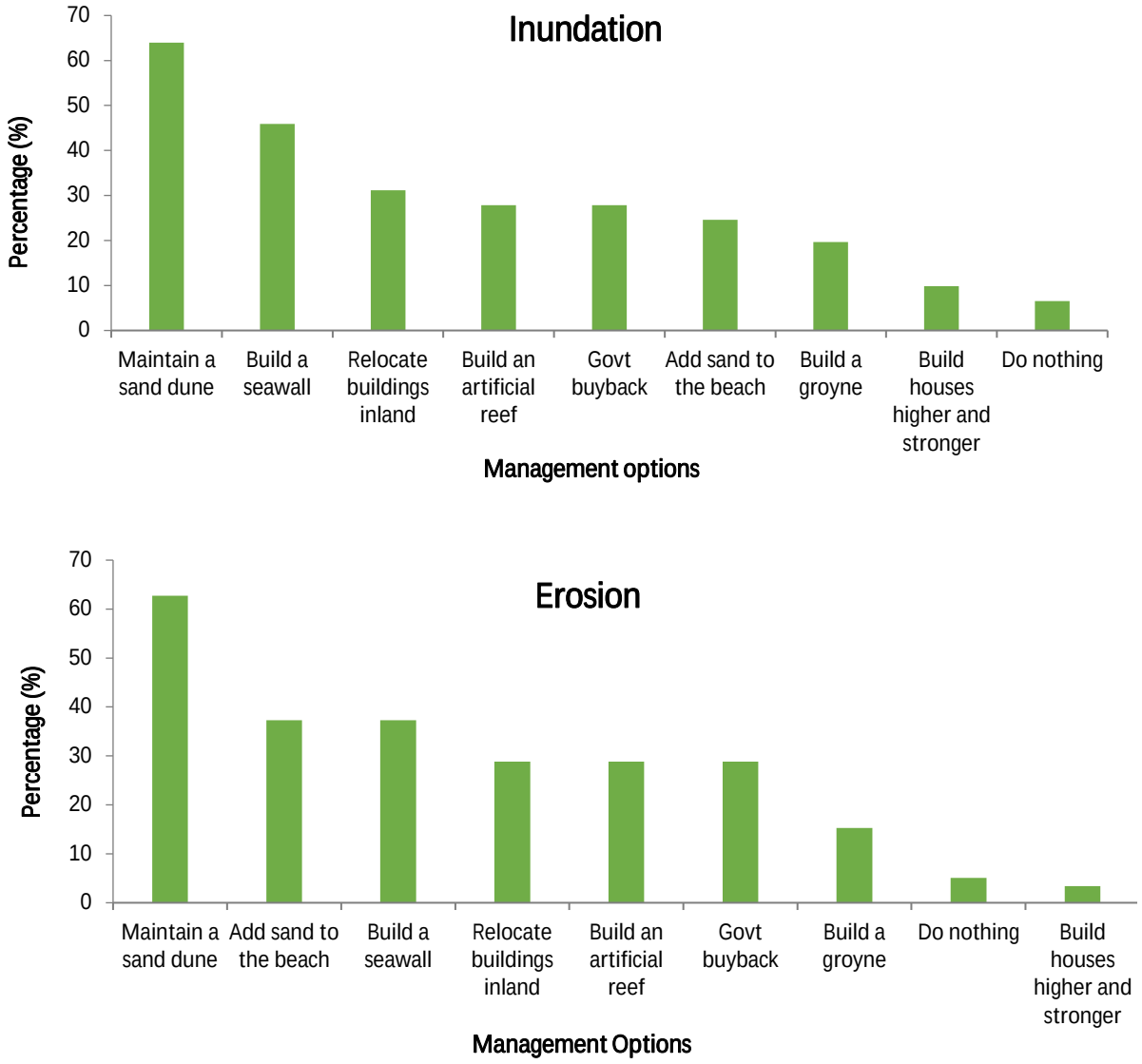


Figure 5.50 NSW Coastal Accommodation Businesses perceptions of the 'best management option' for preventing damage caused by coastal inundation and erosion. Respondents selected all that were applicable (not ranked).

Fact File 12: Who Wants to Live in a Beachfront Property?

Under the latest projections, the population of the state of NSW is anticipated to grow from 7.2 million people in 2011 to 9.9 million in 2036, an increase of 2.7million (NSW DPE, 2016). Past increases in population have resulted in a quick succession of coastal residential development, initiating management challenges in the form of social and economic pressure to protect existing assets while also implementing new, much needed infrastructure and supporting highly desired real estate (Anning *et al.* 2009).

Beachfront properties in NSW are extremely valuable in economic terms. For example, in 2012, beachfront properties on the Collaroy/Narrabeen stretch of Sydney's Northern Beaches were worth $1.93 AUD million on average, which is roughly 200% more than near identical properties within the same study area (SCCG, 2013a). Properties within the first block from the beach, but without direct beach access, were worth approximately $775k less than those that had direct access. The gross values of these properties have likely increased since these estimates were made, but it is prob.04 Ia3(l)5(e)19(i)-4(ha)34(t)-6 toh odg f-4(er)ence14( )17(i)5(nc)19(i)11(

Buyer Beware: Would you buy a house on the beach?

The NSW General Coastal Users surveyed in this study were shown a picture of a beachfront property (Figure 5.51) and asked the following question '*If you had both the opportunity and means, would you buy this house and live in it?*' Approximately half of the respondents (52%) indicated that they would not purchase the property, but 32% indicated they would and 16% were unsure. Respondents provided a range of reasons as to why they would or would not live in this location, with those unsure often commenting on both the pros and cons of living in such a location.

Figure 5.51 Image of a residential house and property that accompanied the survey question '*If you had both the opportunity and means to buy this house, would you buy it and live in it?'* (Image source Google Earth, 2018)

Yes: 'OMG Gorgeous location, maybe renovate and go up?' (GCU 815)

Approximately 50% of those who indicated that they would buy and live in this house stated that location was the primary factor. Roughly 35% indicated that the rewards of living in the beachfront location outweighed the risks, with approximately 25% indicating beach access and lifestyle as deciding factors (Figure 5.52a).

I would value the coastal lifestyle and the benefits of the location would outweigh the risks (GCU 858)

‘best option’ in general and the ‘best option’ when they actually own a property at risk of coastal erosion and/or inundation. While constructing a seawall was not considered a preferred option in general, it was the dominant response if living on the beachfront. However, many of those that preferred a seawall also indicated that it should be constructed in conjunction with sand dune management and planting vegetation on the ocean facing section of the property (Figure 5.53).

Figure 5.53 Word cloud of most common responses by General Coastal Users about how they would protect the waterfront property shown in Figure 5.51.

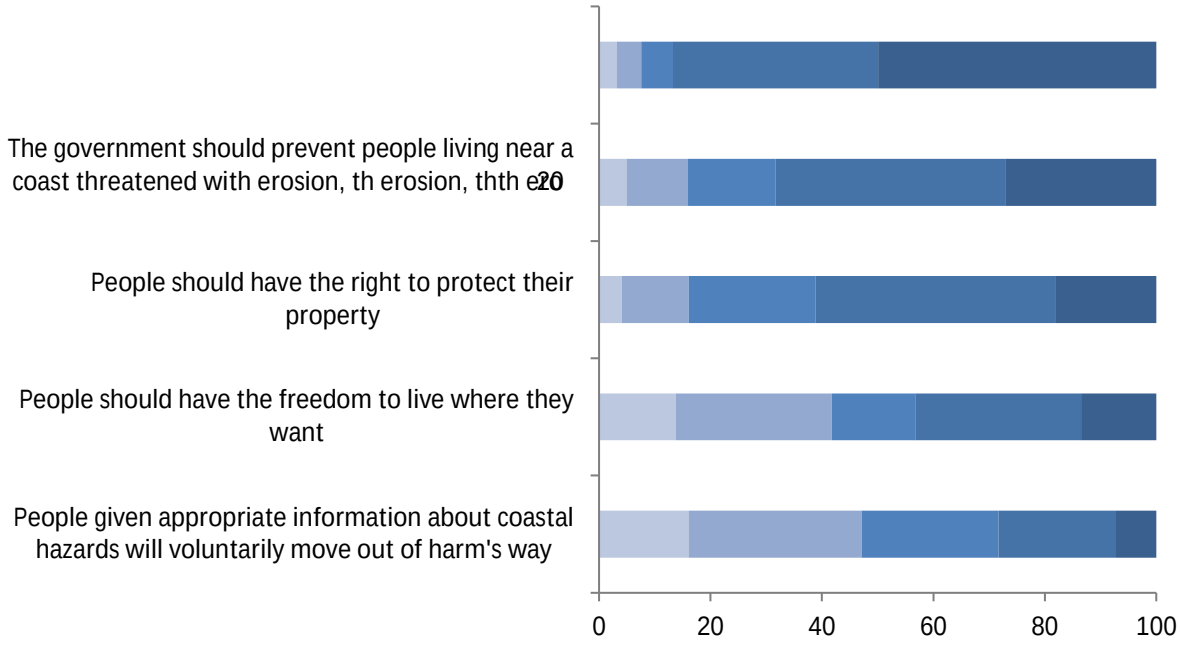


Figure 5.54 Opinions of NSW General Coastal Users in relation to different types of risk acceptance involved in living near the coast.

Fact File 13: Who should pay for damage

Residential Compensation Costs

While coastal properties may be at risk of damage from coastal hazards, there are mixed perceptions about compensation awarded to home owners after a storm event. Barnett *et al.* (2013) found that a majority of the people interviewed in their study in Eurobodalla Shire, NSW and the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria were in favour of compensation, in conjunction with other adaptation options. Compensation was expressed largely as compensation for homeowners who are forced to move due to their property deemed to be 'at risk' of coastal hazards (Barnett *et al.* 2013). However, access to information regarding sea level rise and associated coastal risks was a significant factor in awarding compensation. All interviewees by Barnett *et al.* (201

Figure 5.56 Opinions of surveyed General Coastal Users in regards to who should pay for damage after a severe coastal storm. Respondents were asked to rank their top three preferences.

Fact File 14: Community Engagement

Community engagement is defined by the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government as;

> *'a two- way process of dialogue by which the aspirations, concerns, needs and values of the community are incorporated into policy development, planning, decision-*

a)

While Coastal Management Professionals also have a preference for using documentaries in the future, they are not supportive of dedicated websites, and neither were rated highly (or as an option) for Coastal Accommodation Businesses.

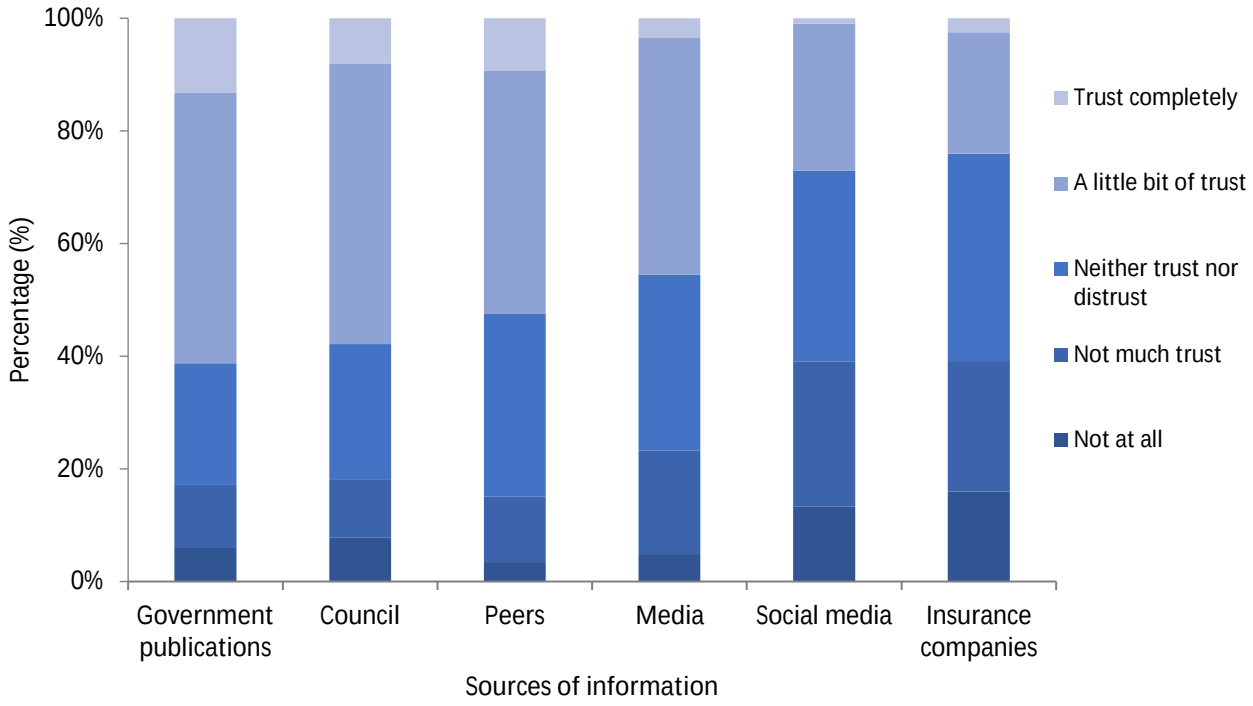


Figure 5.63. Levels of trust amongst surveyed NSW General Coastal Users in regard to different sources of information about coastal hazards.

Fact File 15: What Do People *Need* to Know?

Community engagement is a vital component of successful coastal management practice and is dependent upon mutual understanding of the topic of discussion. As such, the NSW Coastal Management Professionals surveyed in this study were asked what they think are the most important aspects about coastal erosion and inundation that the community should be educated about (Figure 5.64). The surveyed General Coastal Users were also asked what topics they would like to know more about (Figure 5.65). Results indicate that there is a distinct difference between what Coastal Management Professionals think the community *should* know and what the General Coastal Users *want* to know.

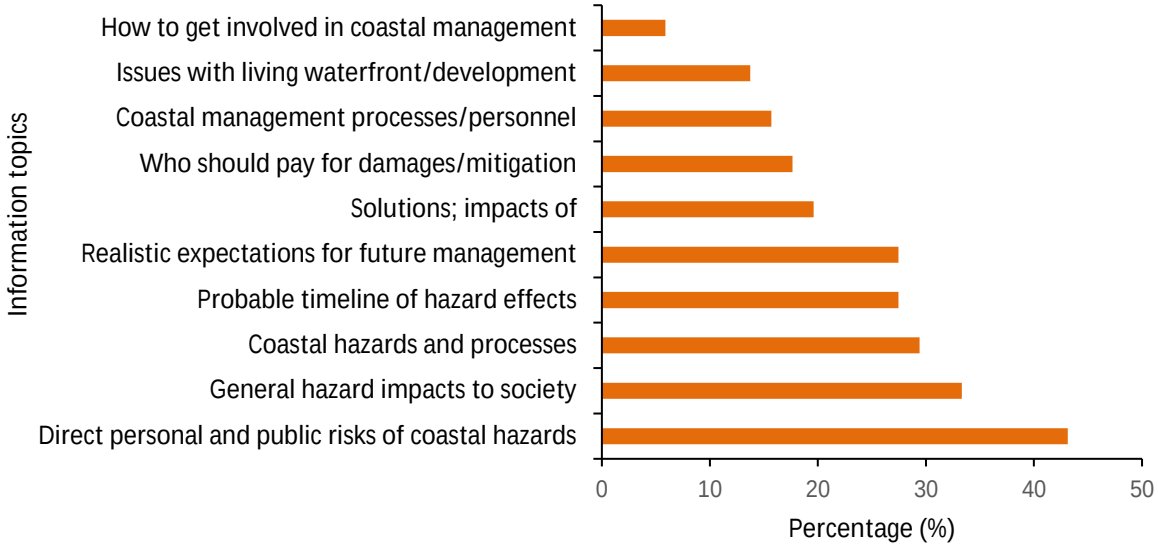


Figure 5.64 Opinions of surveyed NSW Coastal Management Professionals in regard to what topics relating to coastal hazards (related to erosion/inundation) that coastal communities need more information about.

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