

Key Information Sheet: Coastal erosion maps

In April 2021, Northland Regional Council released a new update to Northland's coastal erosion hazard zone maps to help us all understand the risks and better plan for the future.

What is coastal erosion?

Coastal erosion is the loss of land due to coastal processes such as waves and tidal currents wearing away that land suddenly or over time.

Coastal erosion can cause damage to property and dwellings, infrastructure and transport networks. It can pose risks to life, cause environmental degradation and cause harm to other things valued.

Coastal erosion is a natural process projected to get more intense as sea levels rise and as coastal storms grow more severe. Coastal erosion may also be exacerbated by prolonged drought. You can find out more about these coastal hazards on Northland Regional Council's [coastal hazards website](#).

What are the maps used for?

The maps are used to identify areas at risk of coastal flooding, to communicate those risks with residents, and to minimise exposure and avoid increasing the risk to coastal flooding. Councils use these maps to inform where and how development can happen.

What do the maps show?

The **coastal erosion** maps contain four different scenarios as follows:

- Scenario 1 - Current day (CEHZ 0): areas currently susceptible to coastal erosion following the failure of an erosion protection structure, with no allowance for sea level rise. Note: this zone is only mapped where erosion protection structures are in place.
- Scenario 2 - 50-year projection (CEHZ 1): areas 'likely' at risk of coastal erosion over the next 50 years, with a projected sea-level rise of 0.6m by 2080.
- Scenario 3 - 100-year projection (CEHZ 2): areas 'potentially' at risk of coastal erosion over the next 100 years, with a projected sea-level rise of 1.2m by 2130.
- Scenario 4 - 100-year 'extreme' projection (CEHZ 3): areas 'potentially' at risk of coastal erosion over the next 100 years with an 'extreme' sea-level rise scenario of 1.5m by 2130.

How were the maps developed?

The maps were developed through technical assessments and modelling by different hazards and engineering consultants. Coastal erosion modelling considers geology, geomorphology, wave and tidal patterns, historical information and applies sea level rise, storm surge and wave run-up scenarios. The processes are relatively complex and technical.

If you are interested to understand the process for mapping, contact Northland Regional Council (contact info at end). Additionally, the technical reports can be found on the Northland Regional Council's [technical reports page](#).

How can I access the maps?

The updated coastal hazard maps are all available on NRC's 'Natural Hazards' map viewer. You will need to select the layers on the side to see each one. Visit www.nrc.govt.nz/coastalmaps to access the NRC map viewer.

How will the maps affect what I can do on my land now?

For the first three months the maps are in an advisory, draft period. After this period, Council will apply these maps in resource and building consents.

Council processes already account for sea level rise and coastal hazards when processing and making decisions on resource consents. The existing Kaipara District Plan was declared Operative in 2013 and does not include the current, 2017, coastal hazards maps or the updated, 2021, coastal hazards maps. However, by reference in the Operative District Plan, Council takes the most up-to-date hazards maps into account in consents processes.

On any applicable proposal, planners will take into consideration the updated coastal hazards maps when processing consents and assess potential impacts. Consideration of the maps will depend on the type of activity proposed and the level of current and future risk.

If you have a specific question about consents, call Customer Services at 0800 727 059 or email rmaconsents@kaipara.govt.nz.

How will the maps affect what I can do on my land in the future?

At this point, we are uncertain how the maps will affect future land use and development. These decisions will be incorporated into the District Plan review and adaptation planning.

This information is the start of a conversation with communities around how best to respond to and prepare for a changing coastal environment. Councils across Te Taitokerau Northland have been working on a region-wide approach to enable communities to work towards long-term adaptation planning for sea level rise and coastal hazards.

How will the maps affect my property value or insurance?

Implications of the mapped information will vary from site to site and we're not able to determine whether there will be any effect on insurance or property values. We recommend you seek professional advice from your insurance provide or a property valuation expert.

We do know that the insurance industry uses local government-produced natural hazards data, along with their own assessments, to quantify natural hazard risk to help determine insurance coverage and/or premiums.

Will this information go on my property file?

The data used to prepare the maps will be applied on Land Information Memorandum (LIMs) and Project Information Memorandum (PIMs).

What if I do not agree with these maps?

The maps were developed with the best available information using the latest in coastal hazard assessment methodology. We are confident that the maps show a representative picture of coastal hazards where the assessments have been made. However, the maps should not be used in place of detailed local assessments when considering property-level risk. The [coastal hazard map disclaimer](#) outlines the how these maps should be used.

If you have any questions concerning how the maps were developed, or you have information that you think may benefit this mapping work, get in touch with Northland Regional Council (see below for contact info).

How can I find out more?

Contact Northland Regional Council if you would like to know more about the maps and how they were developed.

- Visit <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/coastalmaps>
- Call 0800 002 004
- Email mailroom@nrc.govt.nz

Contact Kaipara District Council if you would like to know more about the potential impacts of the mapping on your land.

- Visit our natural hazards [webpage](#)
- Call Customer Services at 0800 727 059
- Email council@kaipara.govt.nz
- If you have a specific question about consents email rmaconsents@kaipara.govt.nz