

I live on the south west coast of WA and have first hand witnessed increasing coastal erosion and currently seeing a spate of seawalls going in to protect private property.

Local Government does not have the resources or funds to deal with this, State Government seem reluctant to take the bull by the horns.

There needs to be a moratorium on any coastal development within 200 metres of the current high water mark - no green field development should be supported and even infill should be restricted to carrying out repairs on existing development but that no new development. Every time expected sea level rise projected for 2100 is reviewed it keeps going up let alone dealing with storm surges or extreme weather events.

The time to act is now otherwise it will cost millions upon millions of dollars to protect the whole coast, some coastal protection may be necessary for particular infrastructure but this should be subject to appropriate assessment.

I believe a position of retreat is probably the most cost effective stance to take at the moment. A moratorium on development will allow further studies and assessment and should this result in an assessment that coast erosion is not an issue then development can be supported. The precautionary principle has been upheld in WA State Administrative Tribunal decisions so precedent has been set.

I live some 400 metres from the coast and I will accept that I need to contribute to coastal protection for private properties. By building sea walls we will losing out beaches something Australia is well known for around the world.

We seriously need to address the underlying problem of severe weather events with the evidence suggesting global warming is playing a significant role and treat the cause rather than just the symptom. We need to increase controls on emissions and move more swiftly to a low emission economy. The longer we do not address this then the more it will cost us and more importantly our children in the future.

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