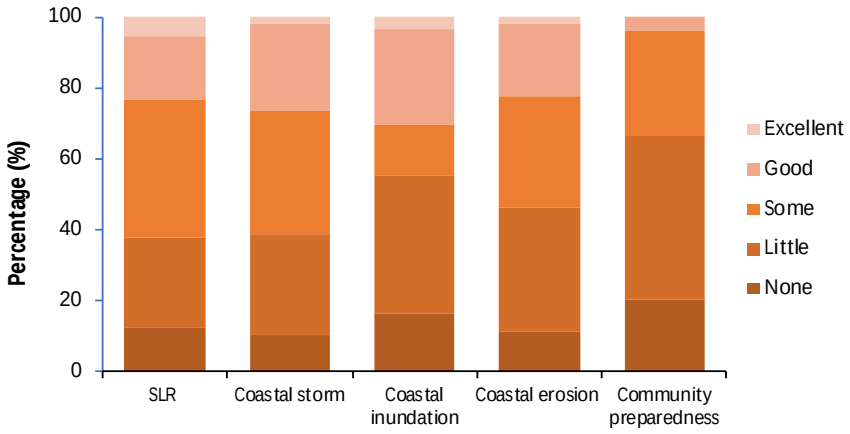
E Y

Why is this important?

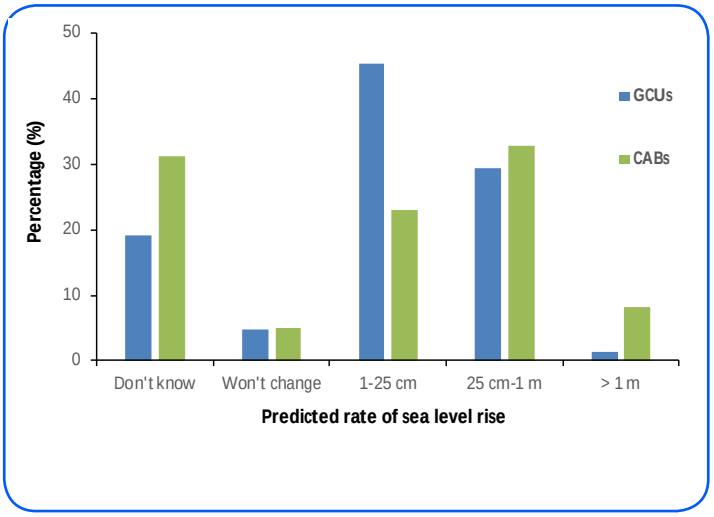
How people understand and perceive severe coastal storms and sea level rise, and their associated impacts of erosion and inundation, can signiýcantly inþuence how and whether they engage in coastal adaptation actions - often determining the success or failure of those actions. Knowledge of what coastal



CMP perceptions of public understanding of coastal hazards

What do NSW coastal communities know about sea level rise?

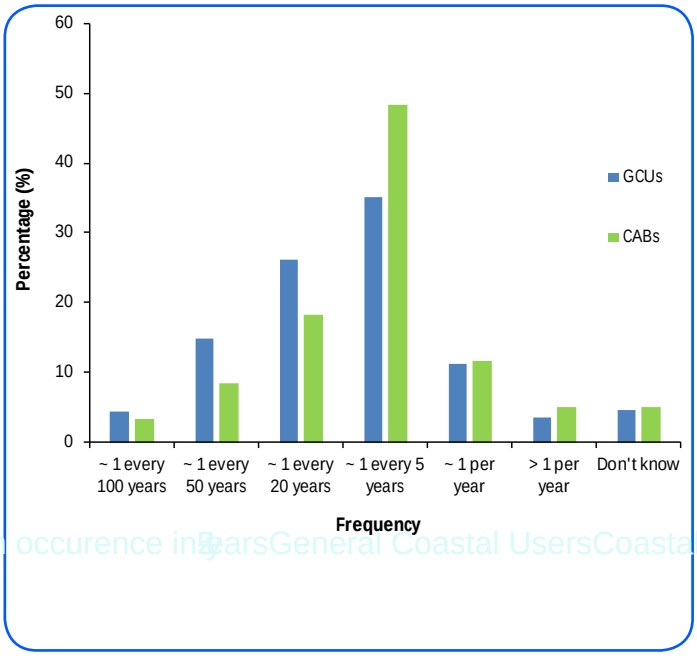
Rate and magnitude

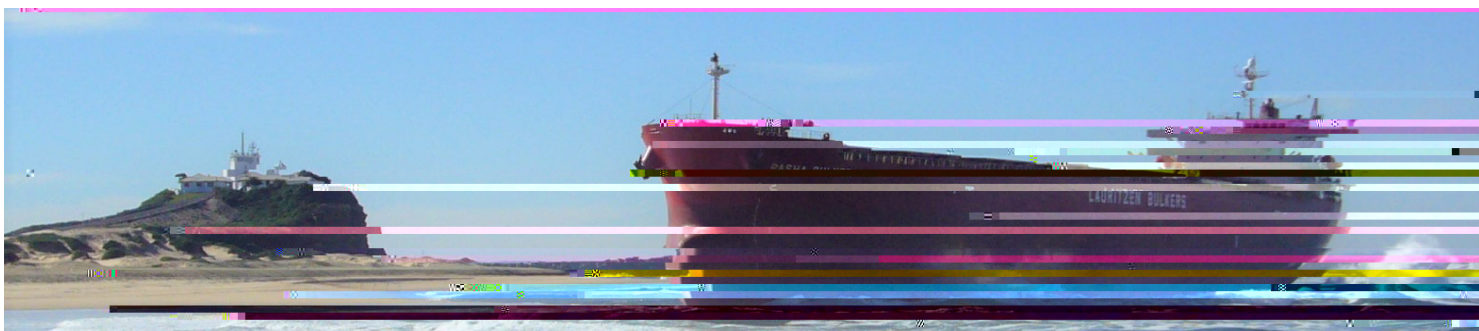


What do NSW coastal communities know about severe coastal storms?

Rate and magnitude

The majority of the NSW coastal community and accommodation businesses surveyed thought that severe coastal storms in NSW, such as damaging East Coast Low (ECL) events, occur on average ‘about once every 5 yearsô or ôabout once every 20 yearsô (Figure 3). These estimates are relatively accurate given that the April 2015 East Coast Low Event was considered to be a ô1 in 10ô year event. Presently, Australian ECL data does not cover the time period needed to account for the extreme temporal variability of Australiaôs climate. As a result, other large ECL events (such as the June 2007 and June 2016 events) are di cult to predict based on historical data.

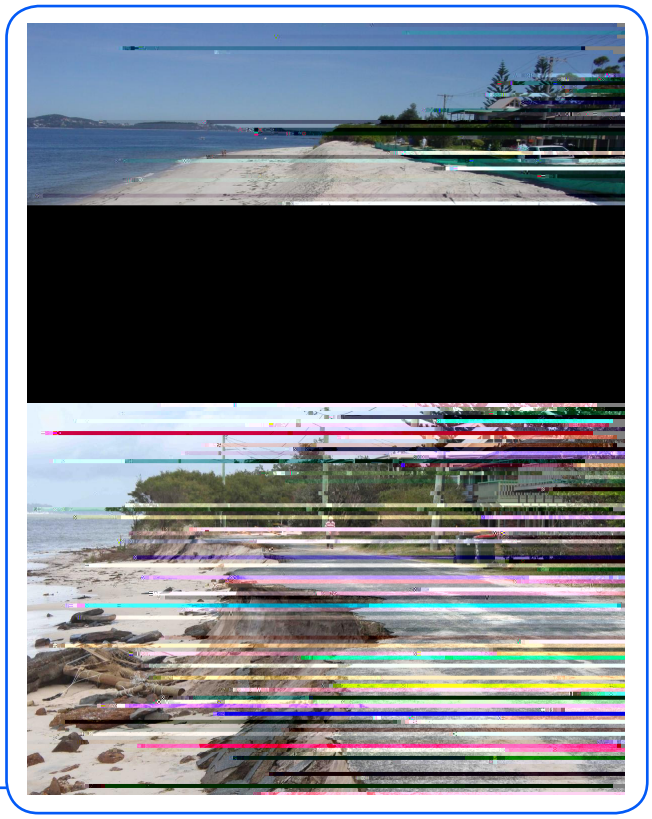




What do NSW coastal communities know about coastal erosion and inundation?

Rate and magnitude

In general, both the surveyed General Coastal Users (GCUs) and Coastal Accommodation Businesses (CABs) think the occurrence of coastal erosion and inundation will increase over the next 20 years . However, a signiýcant proportion of both groups either donôt know or believe the occurrence of these hazards will stay the same. This is in contrast to the vast majority of surveyed coastal management professionals (95%) who think the occurrence of coastal erosion and inundation will increase (Table 3).



Erosion at Winda Woppa spit in Hawks Nest NSW (UNSW, 2019).

Perceptions of the future rate of coastal erosion and inundation by NSW GCUs, CABs and CMPs.

	Rate of change	General Coastal Users	Coastal Accommodation Businesses	Coastal Management Professionals
Coastal Inundation	Increase	77%	67%	95%
	Decrease	1%	0%	0%
	Stay about the same	14%	20%	5%
	Donôt know	8%	13%	0%
Coastal Erosion	Increase	83%	75%	95%
	Decrease	0%	0%	0%
	Stay about the same	12%	20%	5%
	Donôt know	5%	5%	0%

The full My Coast Report and other Fact Sheets and resources can be found at:
www.bees.unsw.edu.au/nsw-my-coast-study

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