

# *The Cocos (Keeling) Islands*

## **Draft Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan Summary of Submissions**

**November 2025**



**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**



**Department of Planning,  
Lands and Heritage**

**GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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Shape Urban acknowledges the Cocos Malay people who inhabit and have connection with and history on the land which we have worked for this project. We recognise their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to the islands, and the importance of the islands to the Cocos Malay people today and into the future.

This document has been prepared with the support of many people from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands community. We wish to acknowledge you for your contributions.

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**Western Australian Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage**

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## For Noting

This document acknowledges the challenges associated with managing risks in a dynamic coastal environment, together with the need to balance people, planet and prosperity values to ensure the long-term sustainable use and management of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands unique coastlines and environment. The CHRMAP process is designed to be ongoing, with regular updates associated with the emergence and collection of new information, continued engagement and a working relationship between the community and key stakeholders and the Government.

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Draft Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan Summary of Submissions - November 2025

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3	Anna Kelderman	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, WA Department of Planning Lands and Heritage	3 November 2025	Final Draft
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# Executive Summary

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) is an external territory of Australia. It is located in the Indian Ocean, approximately 2,950 kilometres (kms) north-west of Perth and 900kms south-southwest of Christmas Island. There are 27 coral islands with a total land area of 14 square kilometres. Apart from North Keeling Island, which is 30kms away from the main group, the islands form a crescent-shaped atoll surrounding a lagoon.

The remote coral atoll community of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) has experienced historic wind, wave and storm erosion and inundation over many decades. They are particularly vulnerable to further erosion and inundation due to storm events and predicted sea level rise.

It is not simply an issue for a small area within the coastal zone; the entirety of CKI is the coastal zone.

The community has identified their islands in the entirety as strongly valued, and have regularly sought action from the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands (the Shire) and the Australian Government to respond to hazards experienced.

The coastal managers of CKI are obliged, through Western Australian State Planning Policy 2.6 - State Coastal Planning (SPP 2.6) and by way of proper governance, to properly and efficiently plan and manage its communities and assets, which includes making suitable decisions in response to coastal hazards.

The scope and intent of SPP 2.6 is clearly defined under the applied WA legislation, with specific guidelines developed to assist the preparation of plans. SPP 2.6 prescribes both the process of assessing coastal hazards and the potential responses to them.

The resulting document is known as a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP), a tool that puts coastal vulnerability findings in context to be used by decision-makers in land use planning.

The Australian Government has led this planning with the support of the WA Government and the Shire.

Throughout the planning process, the Australian Government has engaged local communities in all stages of preparing the CHRMAP.

This phase of engagement represents the culmination of three phases of community engagement undertaken over two and a half years and five extended site visits.

More than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly during that time, with more than 180 contributions prior to the final draft CHRMAP being prepared.



The draft CHRMAP received 162 signatures in total, from 49 submissions. Many of the submissions imply that submitters are only now becoming aware of the implications of the study, reflecting a common experience with development of CHRMAPs.

This suggests that the CHRMAP engagement is achieving its first engagement objective: to inform the community and stakeholders about the extent of potential coastal hazards and the adaptation strategies available to respond to those hazards.

The submissions include feedback from approximately 24% of the total population of the islands, as well as other businesses, agencies and organisations present on, or connected to, CKI.

Approximately 70% of submitters were from the Cocos Malay community (either self-identified or based on names provided). Approximately 56% of the submitters were above 55 years of age, with 11% of submitters under the age of 14. Approximately 56% of the submitters were long-term residents of CKI, with more than 40 years of residency.

The strongest feedback relates to long-term planning for planned and managed retreat, with 83% of submissions either directly **objecting to planning for planned and managed retreat** or expressing concern about loss of connection to the islands as a result. A desire to save CKI for future generations was noted in approximately 60% of submissions. Loss and connection to culture, customs, traditions and racial identity was mentioned in 65% of submissions.

More than 80% of submissions expressed a strong desire for **action to be progressed to support the management and adaptation responses** described in the short- to medium-term in the draft document, particularly associated with the cemetery.

Approximately 61% of all submissions seek support to **manage current day flooding** on Home Island, including management of pipes, drainage and services, and improvements to buildings.

Notably, some 55% of the submissions **encourage an ongoing partnership approach** to managing and adapting to the coastal hazard challenges present on CKI. The community is seeking a collaborative working relationship for the ongoing delivery of coastal hazard planning, and demands increased and authentic engagement.

This report provides information about the process and actions taken during engagement on the draft CHRMAP, which was itself informed by previous engagement activities. The report summarises the qualitative and quantitative feedback received.

*Section 5* of this report reflects on the key issues raised and provides a response or clarification where relevant.

*Section 6* of this report provides a list of recommended changes to the draft CHRMAP and the summary document

Recommended changes focus on improving the language used throughout the document with a particular focus on the differences between short-, medium- and long-term actions, increased clarity between the different types of planned and managed retreat that may be considered over time, and a much greater focus on ongoing community and key stakeholder engagement in the future of settlement planning on CKI.

This report provides a link between community feedback and changes to the documents, but also reflects the ongoing intent to bring the community, key stakeholders, and government together more meaningfully, to achieve collaborative management of hazards.



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# 1 Introduction

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands sit on the reef rim and partially enclose a main central lagoon. The idyllic coral sand islands have 26 kilometres of coastline, an average elevation of 1.5 metres (m) and a maximum elevation of 9m.

The central lagoon has an area of 102 square kilometres, with two major entrances (*Figure 1*).

The two inhabited islands are Home Island and West Island. Home Island is home to the Cocos Malay community and the Shire of CKI office.

West Island comprises the airport, government offices, homes of government and contracted employees and some private residents.

The two islands are inhabited by approximately 593 people (ABS, 2021). Subsequent references to CKI refer to Home Island and West Island.

The islands sit within a significant natural environment. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park was proclaimed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* in March 2022.

Economic activity on CKI is limited, with the public sector providing the majority of the employment, through administration, education, health and local government services.

The largest private sector activity is the provision of services to the community, often under contract to the Australian Government. Small businesses provide a range of goods and services including accommodation, tourism, workshop/mechanical services, gardening and cleaning.

CKI is part of Australia's Indian Ocean Territories (together with Christmas Island). Due to an absence of locally specific legislation or regulation applied at the Federal level, and in order to support appropriate decision-making, CKI operates predominantly under the legislation of Western Australia, meaning that relevant WA legislation is applied, including planning legislation.

The Australian Government acts as both the Federal and State level government on CKI. Essential services are delivered through Service Delivery Arrangements (SDAs) with WA Government agencies, directly or through contractual arrangements with commercial operators.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955 (the CKI Act) provides the legislative basis for the Territory's administrative, legislative and judicial system, and applies Western Australian (WA) legislation as Australian Federal laws on CKI.

The Australian Government Minister with responsibility for the Territories is vested with all powers under these applied WA laws, as well as the power to vest or delegate those powers.

State Planning Policy No. 2.6 - State Coastal Planning Policy (SPP 2.6) (Western Australian Planning Commission - WAPC, 2013) is the policy document guiding coastal planning under the applied WA legislation on CKI.

SPP 2.6 requires that coastal hazard risk management and adaptation is appropriately planned for. The WAPC has also developed specific CHRMAP guidelines to assist the preparation of CHRMAPs (WAPC, July 2019).



Figure 1: The Cocos (Keeling) Islands location and (inset) showing the Southern Keeling Islands (Google, 2022)

### The objectives of SPP 2.6

While recognising the unique location and characteristics of CKI, it is also important to recognise that planning for CKI is an immediate need. The objectives remain to:

- Ensure that the location of coastal facilities takes into account coastal processes, landform stability, coastal hazards, climate change and biophysical criteria;
- Ensure the identification of appropriate areas for the sustainable use of the coast for housing, tourism, recreation, ocean access, maritime industry, commercial and other activities;
- Provide for public coastal foreshore reserves and access to them on the coast; and
- Protect, conserve and enhance coastal zone values, particularly in areas of landscape, biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, indigenous and cultural significance.

## 1.1 Background

In 2016, the Australian Government agreed with the Shire to commence the process of coastal hazard planning for CKI, in collaboration with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). The CHRMAP is the second stage of this process.

The first stage was the preparation of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Coastal Vulnerability Study (CVS) (RHDHV, 2021a) for Home Island and West Island. The CVS identifies present and potential future coastal hazard risks and assesses the vulnerability of built and natural assets to erosion and inundation hazards, in accordance with the requirements of SPP 2.6 and the CHRMAP Guidelines.

The CVS found that CKI's coastline is exposed and vulnerable to coastal processes, including erosion and inundation. Modelling detailed in the CVS indicates that over time, CKI is likely to become increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise, storm surges and any changes in sediment transport and natural sediment stores.

As it changes it can affect the infrastructure in the coastal zone (e.g. footpaths, roads, houses, tourist accommodation, beach access, services), as well as how the coast can be used.

So that the coast can continue to be used and enjoyed, it is important to understand coastal hazards and the associated risks.

Building on the findings of the CVS, a draft CHRMAP was prepared in accordance with the CHRMAP Guidelines to give decision-makers, administrators and landowners on CKI the best available and most contemporary data.

Publication of this data enables all members of the community and key stakeholders to be fully informed and active participants in decision-making for sustainable development into the future.

Background information including the draft CHRMAP can be found at [The Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan Project | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

The draft CHRMAP is the result of extensive research, analysis and community engagement, including workshops which actively sought local knowledge and perspectives. In total, engagement included five separate periods of face-to-face engagement on-island, online engagement platforms, physical materials and multiple webinars.

## Engagement Objectives

Specific engagement objectives for the CHRMAP were to:

- Inform the community and stakeholders about the extent of potential coastal hazards and the adaptation strategies available to respond to those hazards;
- Explain Australian, state and local governments' responsibilities and capacity to respond to potential coastal hazards, per the CKI governance framework;
- Understand community and stakeholder values along the coastlines;
- Invite the community to bring their local knowledge, expertise and lived experience to the process and give them adequate opportunity to contribute in a way that suits their needs and circumstances;
- Ensure that the community and stakeholders' advice and recommendations are incorporated into the decisions to the maximum extent possible, and that this encourages a sense of community ownership for the CHRMAP;
- The engagement will be fair, equitable, transparent and honest;
- Develop positive relationships between all levels of government, the community and key stakeholders;
- Gain an understanding of the community's preferred methods of continued engagement with local, state and Australian governments.

The extensive engagement of the community in this public consultation process suggests that these objectives have been achieved.

## 1.2 Engagement Purpose

The Australian Government has engaged local communities in all stages of preparing the draft CHRMAP to understand the community and key stakeholders coastal and cultural values.

The purpose of the public engagement on the draft CHRMAP was to ensure continued information sharing and provide opportunities for the community and key stakeholders to understand the technical investigations.

The engagement approach aligns with the required stages of SPP 2.6, with engagement occurring throughout the CHRMAP stages. [Figure 2](#) depicts an overview of the engagement approach in each of the CHRMAP stages.

Previous engagement activities and outcomes are detailed in the following reports which can be found [here](#):

- *The Provision Of Coastal Hazard Risk Management And Adaptation Planning In The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Engagement Outcomes Report* (Shape Urban, 2023a)
- *The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan Stage 5 Engagement Outcomes Report* (Shape Urban, 2023b)

## 1.3 Purpose of the report

This Summary of Submissions collates all the formal submissions received during the public advertising period of 29 January to 30 June 2025. It includes the information presented, the engagement activities and the public and community feedback.

This report also makes recommendations based on the feedback provided, balancing solutions that will best achieve the changes needed in the CHRMAP while meeting the expectations of the public, stakeholders and community.

All individual submissions can be found unedited in the [Appendix A](#) of this report, with names and identifying details removed for privacy and confidentiality purposes.

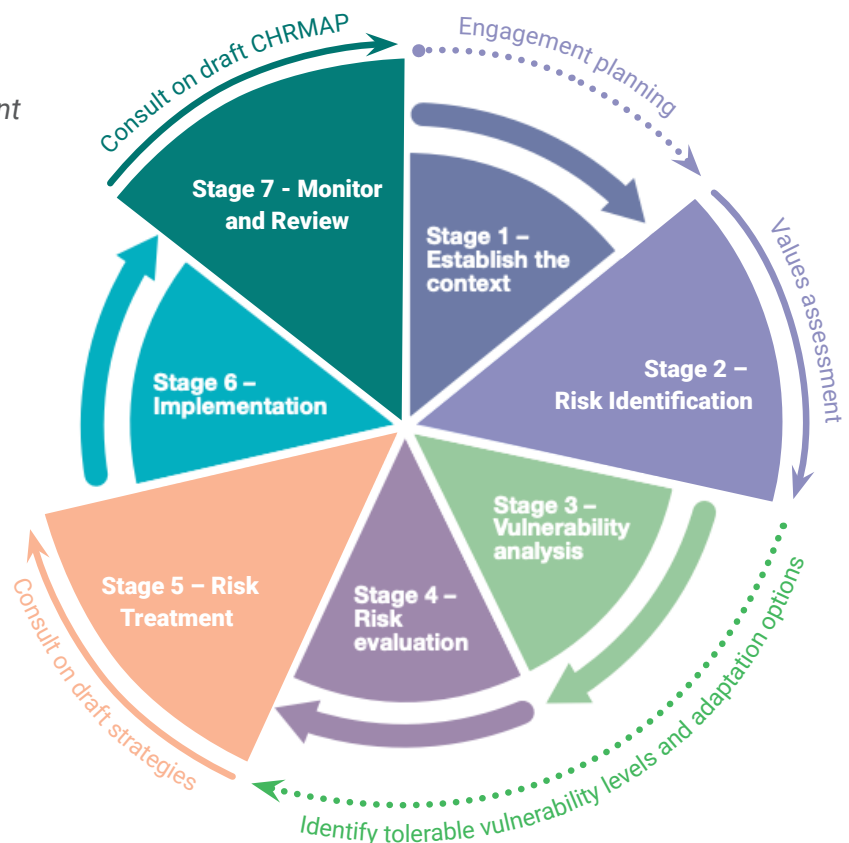



Figure 2: Engagement approaches in CHRMAP Stages adapted from the CHRMAP Guidelines (WAPC, 2019)



# Chapter 2 Communication Methods

# 2 Communications Methods

## 2.1 Project Website

The Social Pinpoint engagement platform (*Figure 3*) was used as the primary location for all project information, including:

- Background and links
- Registrations of interest
- Webinar links
- Hazard maps
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Common terms used

## 2.2 Direct communication

The project team communicated directly with community members on-island to invite attendance or engagement in the public advertising phase. A database of 172 stakeholders was directly advised of the launch of engagement. A further six direct emails were sent during the consultation period.

## 2.3 Webinars

Three online webinars were held during the engagement period, to provide more information about the process, on 18 March, 25 March and 1 April 2025, with a further Frequently Asked Questions webinar added on 19 June 2025.

## 2.4 Summary CHRMAP

A CHRMAP is a technical document with complex terminology and language, so a summary document distilling the most important information about risk and management options was prepared and provided in both English and Cocos Malay.

The document spanning 20 pages is substantially shorter than the 584-page main technical document.



Figure 3: Project website and online interactive mapping tool

## 2.5 Elders Meetings

The CHRMAP was presented at a number of meetings, with further details noted in [Section 3](#).

During the draft CHRMAP engagement, senior community leaders were directly engaged and supported coordination of meetings on-island, with a total of four meetings coordinated and facilitated directly with the CKI Imam on January 30, April 9, April 10 and April 14 2025.

## 2.6 Public Meetings

In addition to the Elders meetings, the project team hosted drop-in information sessions and Meetings with other organisations on Home Island and West Island.

## 2.7 Public notices

Public notices were provided through community newsletter The Atoll on February 7, March 21, June 13 and June 27. The Shire was also invited to share public notices regarding the engagement period and face-to-face opportunities for engagement via email and online phone meetings.

## 2.8 Newsletter

Articles were published in The Atoll in English and Cocos Malay throughout the engagement process as noted above. All articles linked back to the project website to encourage community members to learn, engage and contribute.

## 2.9 Social media

Social media was used to promote the project and opportunities to be involved. The CKI Community Resource Centre (CRC) shared project information and opportunity to engage on January 30 and June 20.

The DITRDSCA Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) Facebook 'News' page also provided updates, with posts shared on February 3 & 27, March 13, 14, 17, 27 & 31, April 3, 4 & 8, and June 10, 13, 20 & 27 during the engagement period.

## 2.10 Australian Government

As well as the department's Facebook page, the departmental website and the Administrator of the IOT's regular community newsletter were also used to provide the community and key stakeholders with updates on the project and consultation opportunities.

## 2.11 Language

Translation services for both written and spoken content were tailored for engaging the culturally and linguistically diverse community effectively, including workshops and one-on-one meetings. Elders Meetings were held with the support of translation.



# Chapter 3 Engagement Activities

# 3 Engagement Activities

## 3.1 Meetings, workshops and drop-in sessions

Individual meetings or group drop-in sessions were undertaken on-island with community members and stakeholders as follows:

JANUARY	ACTIVITY / LOCATION	APRIL	ACTIVITY / LOCATION
29/01/25	Meeting CEO	09/04/25	Elders Meeting #1
	Councillor Briefing		Elders Meeting #2
30/01/25	Elders briefing	10/04/25	Q&A Cyclone Shelter, Home Island
	Drop-in session Cyclone Shelter		Q&A, foreshore, West Island seawalls
	Drop-in session West Island CRC		Q&A, West Island CRC
31/01/25	Drop-in session West Island Cocos Club	11/04/25	Q&A, foreshore Home Island
	Meeting CRC Manager		Community Q&A Cyclone Shelter, Home Island
	Meetings, informal Cocos Club		Cocos Island District High School engagement
			CKI School Education Assistants
		12/04/25	CKI Marine Care Group
		14/04/25	Meetings, informal CRC

In total, more than 115 people were directly engaged during site visits in January and April 2025, across 19 activities. Additional one-on-one meetings were held directly with community and stakeholders, together with the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH).

The sessions were aimed at providing answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) and clarifying details of the CHRMAP, rather than receiving formal feedback. The discussions very closely aligned with the feedback received during formal submissions.

A number of community members who had not previously contributed engaged with the CHRMAP project, reflecting the more tangible nature of the draft.

Discussions at these meetings in late January and in April indicated that the community and key stakeholders were surprised and concerned by the significance of the CHRMAP for the future, and at the same time strongly encouraging ongoing actions to manage risks.

The urgent need to manage the flooding on Home Island and recent significant erosion on West Island were reiterated.

Significant clarification of the short-term actions proposed in the draft CHRMAP was required both while on-island and via email after the April visit, indicating a misunderstanding of some of the key recommendations. This led to the release of the 19 June 2025 FAQ webinar.

# Chapter 4 Summary of Submissions

# 4 Summary of Submissions

## 4.1 Submission Overview

There were three ways to make an official submission during the advertising period:

- Online form submission on the project website
- Email to the project email address, the Shire or other project partners
- Physical letter by post or by hand

Informal comments, such as those posted on social media, are not included in this report although the project team did monitor these channels.

[Table 2](#) is an overview of all the submissions received. A full list of the submissions as provided verbatim are provided in [Appendix A](#).

Responses to individual submissions are also provided in [Appendix A](#).

## 4.2 Submissions Received

Over the course of the project, the CHRMAP project team engaged directly with more than 400 people and organisations, with over 180 contributions prior to the final draft CHRMAP being prepared.

The draft CHRMAP received 162 signatures in total, from 49 submissions. Many of the submissions imply that submitters are only now becoming aware of the implications of the study, reflecting a common experience with development of CHRMAPs.

The highest level of feedback relates to long-term options for planned and managed retreat, with 83% of submissions either directly objecting to planning for settlement retreat or expressing concern about loss of connection to the islands, which is taken to be an opposition to settlement retreat. A desire to save CKI for future generations was noted, and loss and connection to culture, customs, traditions and racial identity was mentioned in 65% of submissions.

Table 1: Overview of the submissions received including key themes

THEME	NUMBER OF TIMES MENTIONED	TOTAL MENTIONS (PERCENTAGE OF SUBMISSIONS %)
Do not support / are concerned about the planned and managed retreat pathway	135	83
Desire for ongoing action	132	81
Connection (disconnection) to culture, identity and birthplace; and a desire to save the Cocos Keeling Islands	105	65
Flooding on Home Island - current day, including pipes and/or drainage infrastructure insufficient/not connected	99	61
Safety; power, sewer at risk of damage and impact to community (from flooding)	98	60
Fear of ongoing erosion	96	59
Desire for provision of seawalls and other protections	96	59
Concerns for loss of Cemetery	91	56
A desire for a partnership approach with the community	89	55
Inadequate / lack of proper engagement	51	31
Does not provide alternatives	41	31
Challenging the scientific basis and accuracy of the report	21	23
Lack of clarity on next steps	28	17
Global responsibility	27	17
School / Youth Involvement	18	11
No levees (traps water), no seawalls (blocks beach access)	18	11
Preference for the community to develop their own CHRMAP	16	10
Inundation not happening and/or erosion not happening	14	9
Home Islander relocation to West Island not supported	9	6
Runway cost and contradictory spending	8	5
Response should be equivalent to Pacific Islands' response	7	4
Focus on Oceania House is unnecessary	8	5
Other matters (mapping, heritage, minor changes)	1-4	<2

### 4.3 Submission Analysis

A thematic analysis was carried out by grouping issues of concern to understand the trends of concerns received in the submissions.

### 4.4 Submitter Demography

Submitters who responded via the formal submission form were asked a series of questions to determine their demographic details such as relationship to the islands, age, length of residency etc.

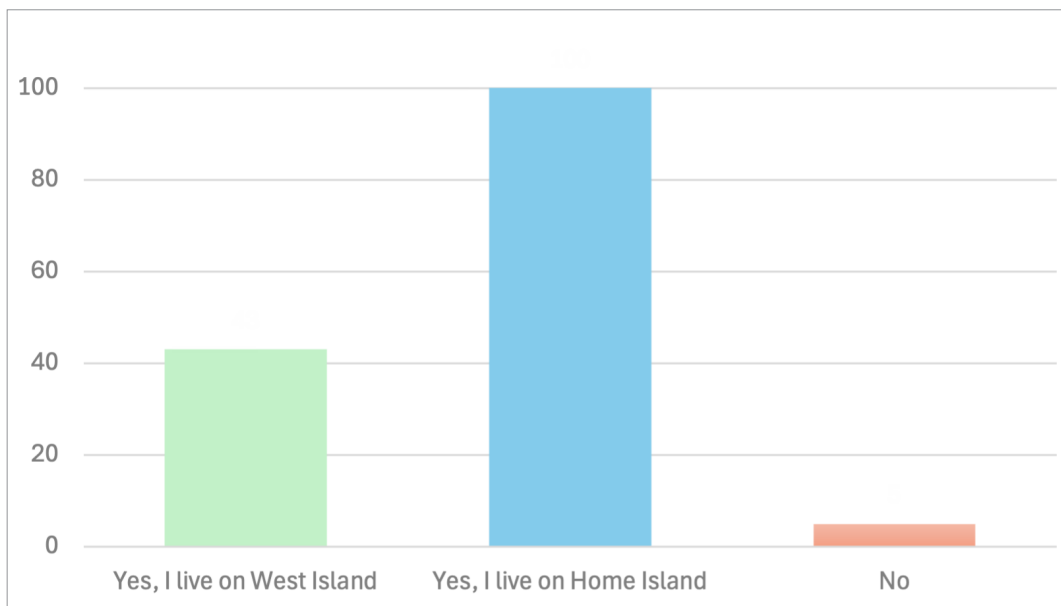
In addition, some of the written comments were signed by persons known to the CHRMAP project team, or provided enough detail to imply answers to these questions.

This section provides a summary of the demographic information, noting that some of the numbers are approximately based on the above assumptions and limitations.

#### 4.4.1 Are you a resident of CKI

Figure 4 provides the data associated with this question.

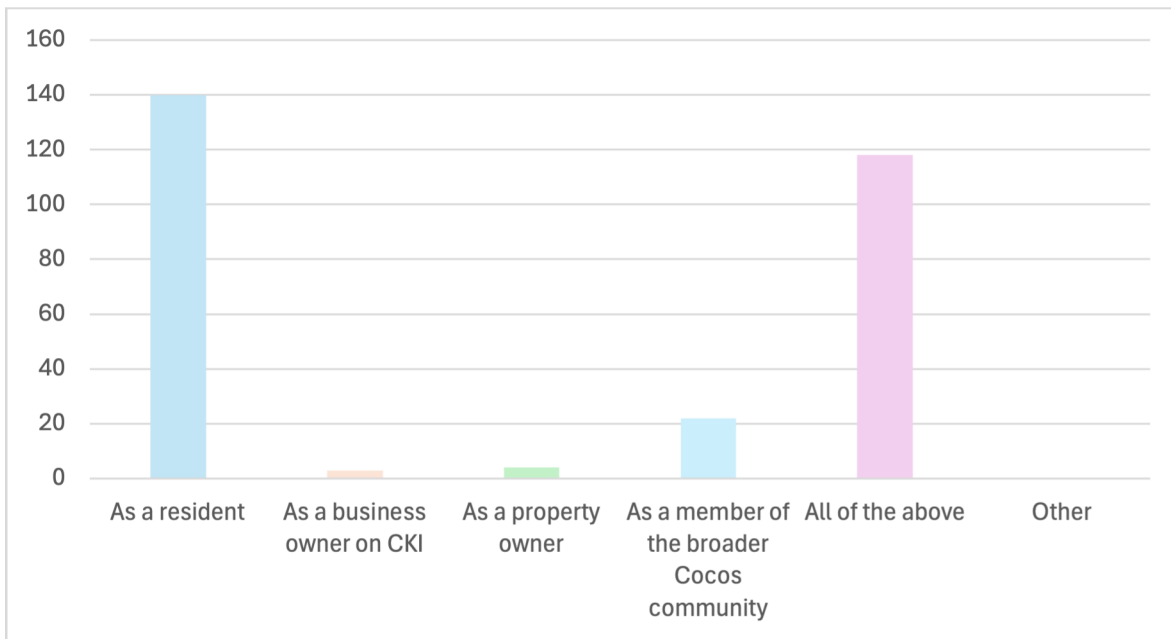
Figure 4: Residency Status (number of submissions identifying in each category where stated)



### 4.4.2 Reason for Interest in the CHRMAP

Figure 5 provides the data associated with this question.

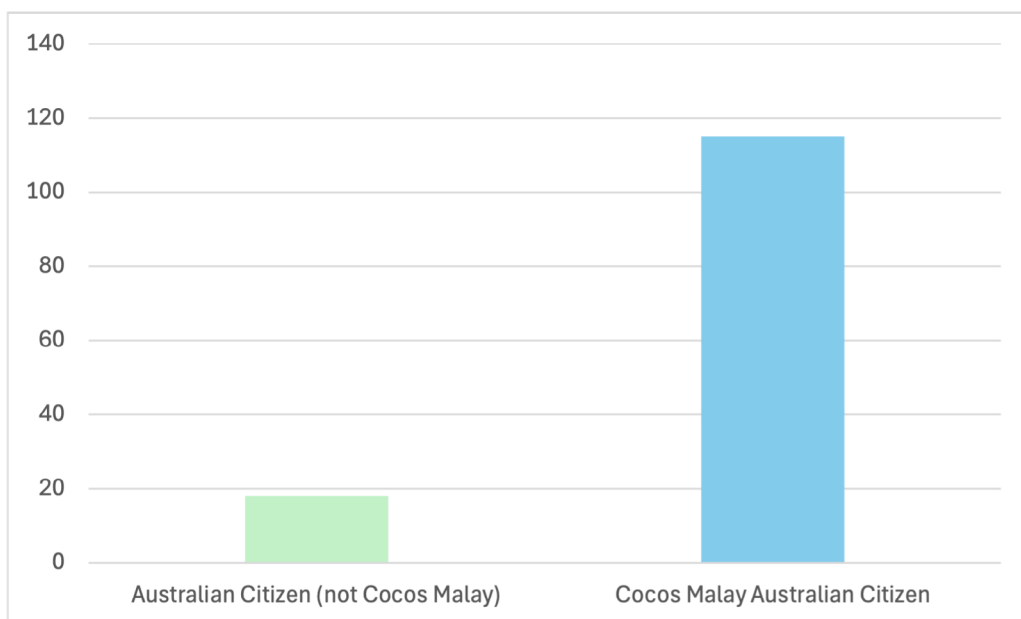
Figure 5: Interest in the CHRMAP (number of submissions identifying in each category where stated)



### 4.4.3 Cultural Identity and Citizenship

Figure 6 provides the data associated with this question.

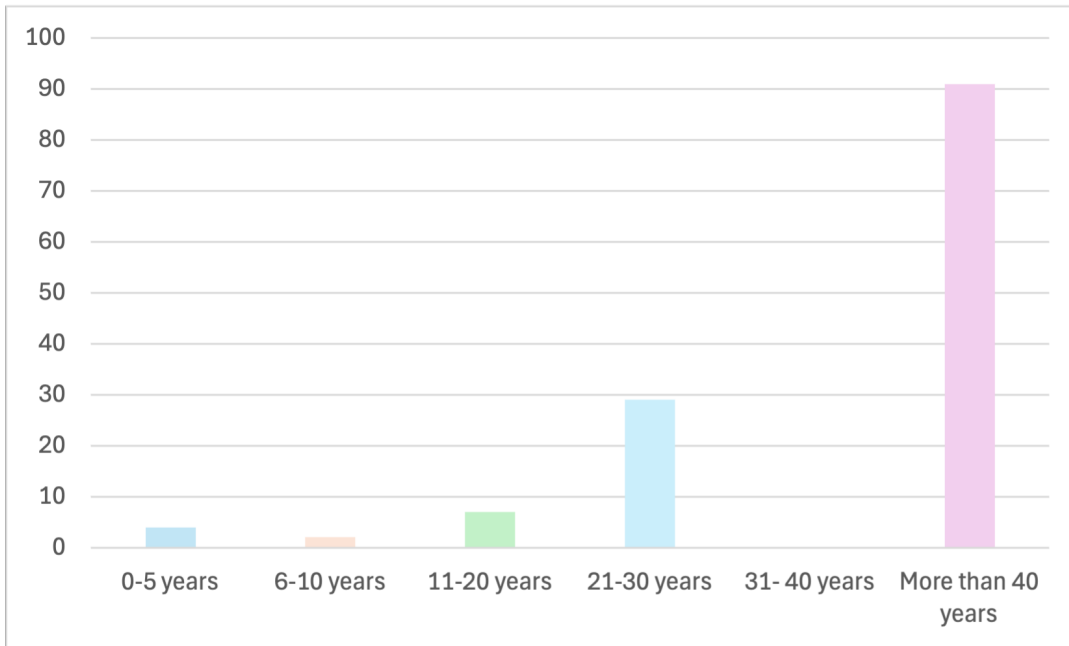
Figure 6: Cultural Identity and Citizenship (total number of submissions identifying in each category where stated)



#### 4.4.4 Length of Residency

Figure 7 provides the data associated with this question.

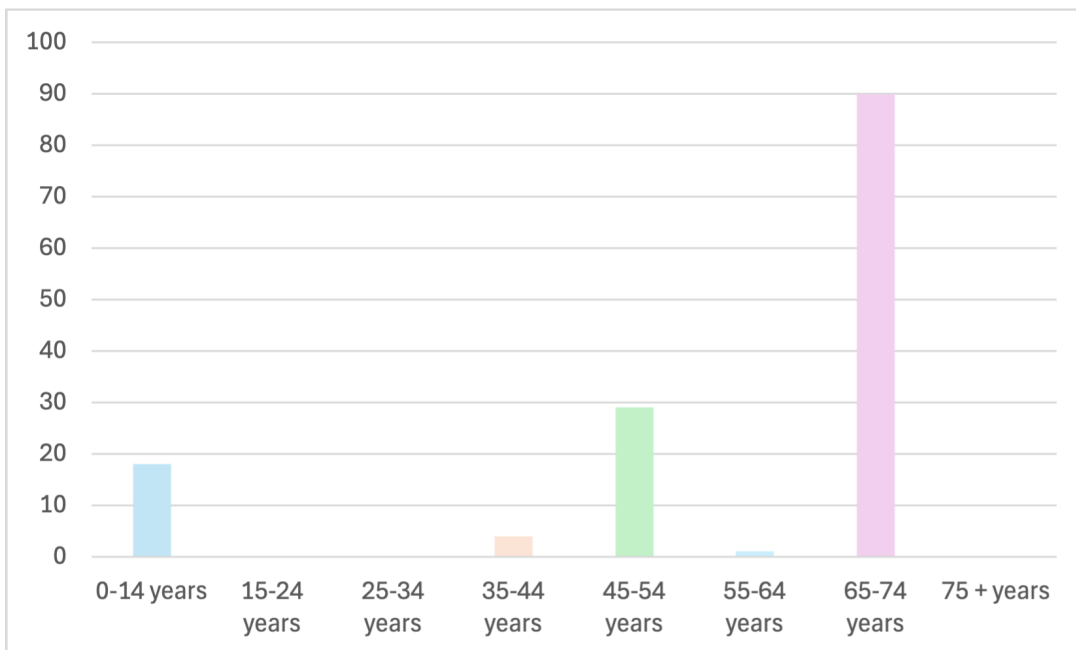
Figure 7: Length of Residency (number of submissions identifying in each category where stated)



#### 4.4.5 Age of Submitter

Figure 8 provides the data associated with this question (note that this is approximate).

Figure 8: Age of Submitter (number of submissions identifying in each category where stated)



## 4.5 Trend of Concerns

The draft CHRMAP received 162 signatures in total, from 49 submissions. Many of the submissions imply that submitters are only now becoming aware of the implications of the study, reflecting a common experience with development of CHRMAPs.

The number of people engaged shows a continual increase in engagement on the CHRMAP since the project launched in 2022.

This suggests that the CHRMAP engagement **is achieving its first engagement objective**: to inform the community and key stakeholders about the extent of potential coastal hazards and the adaptation strategies available to respond to those hazards.

The submissions include feedback from approximately 24% of the total population of the islands, as well as other businesses, agencies and organisations present on, or connected to, CKI.

Approximately 70% of submitters were from the Cocos Malay community (either self-identified or based on known names provided). Approximately 56% of the submitters were above 55 years of age, with 11% of submitters under the age of 14. Approximately 56% of the submitters were long-term residents of CKI, with over 40 years of residency.

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Approximately 61% of all submissions seek support to manage current-day flooding on Home Island, including management of pipes, drainage and services, and improvements to buildings.

Notably, some 55% of the submissions encourage an ongoing partnership approach to managing and adapting to the coastal hazard challenges present on CKI. The community is seeking a collaborative working relationship for the ongoing delivery of coastal hazard planning, and is looking for increased and authentic engagement.

The following section discusses each thematic concern in detail.

# Chapter 5

## Key Themes



# 5 Key Themes

This section summarises and responds to the key themes of the qualitative and quantitative feedback received

## 5.1 Theme 1: Do not support / are concerned about planned and managed retreat pathway

More than 80% of submissions either directly objected to planned and managed retreat or expressed concern about loss of connection to the islands as a result.

The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.

A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the SPP 2.6 hierarchy of **avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate**, then **protect**.

The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community, key stakeholders and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process. Delivery is an ongoing process and should be done collaboratively.

Notwithstanding, the standard CHRMAP hierarchy language around 'planned and managed retreat' collectively includes the management of both minor infrastructure assets and significant assets such as buildings and homes.

The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve living conditions and address climate change impacts that the community and key stakeholders are already experiencing, *without suggesting* planned and managed retreat of the settlements and population.

However, planned and managed retreat of *minor assets and services infrastructure* are being considered in the short-term. Because the term also encompasses *planning* for the longer term, it is apparent that the short-term adaptation measures recommended in the CHRMAP to maintain the settlements is not clear to the community. This includes the many studies and assessments recommended to better understand what the long-term adaptation responses could be.

It is further apparent that the term 'planned and managed retreat' is too simplistic to adequately explain the many actions that would be included in that term for CKI. The challenges of the 'retreat' language of CHRMAP were highlighted during consultations.

The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlements is the least favourable solution for the community, but identifies that any scenario planning for the future of CKI settlements would be pragmatic.

### 5.1.1 Proposed Change 1

The CHRMAP will be reviewed and refined to further explain the sub-categories within the overarching 'planned and managed retreat' term.

A differentiation between minor asset 'Minor Asset Relocation', service asset 'Services Relocation' and 'Long-Term Settlement Planning' will be described in more detail. This will include updates to the Common Definitions, descriptions in Section 6 and Table 28, and throughout Section 7 and 8 and 10.

Examples of the type of asset relocation will be included.

This would then require updates to action items in the recommendation tables to make this clearer.

It is also recommended that Action 11 (Property Acquisition) be updated to better reflect the concept of Settlement Planning in its entirety, rather than the functional element of acquisition. This can introduce more clarity on next steps being a significant factor.

In addition, it is apparent that the Executive Summary requires additional context and clarity around the short-term adaptation recommendations, to alleviate concerns that settlement retreat is imminent.

## 5.2 Theme 2: Desire for ongoing action

More than 80% of submissions sought urgent and ongoing action to manage the impacts of coastal hazards. The impacts are known and recognised by the community and key stakeholders, ever visible, and creating ongoing fear and concern for both the ability to stay connected to the islands and for safety reasons.

Importantly, as will be presented in this report several times, the community and key stakeholders seek to be involved in decisions about how and when to take action.

The community, key stakeholders and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.

A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.

The Australian Government, the Shire, the community and key stakeholders are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP and building on the extensive consultation undertaken to date.

The CHRMAP identifies possible short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government is keen to continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.

### 5.2.1 Proposed Change 2

Include a clear statement in the introduction of the CHRMAP regarding the need to commence detailed response work with the community and key stakeholders.

Modify Action 6 (Communications) to include more detailed information about community engagement which is based on long-term partnership and collaboration for decision-making.

Change Action 6 (Communications) to Action 1.

Clarify that Action 1 (now Action 2 - Investigation into terrestrial and groundwater flooding) has commenced.

## 5.3 Theme 3: Connection to (disconnection from) culture, identity and birthplace; and a desire to save the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Much like matters noted in Section 5.1 and 5.2, this theme, representing more than 60% of feedback provided, seeks action on behalf of all decision makers to ensure that cultural connections are not severed.

Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity, is respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many pathways forward.

The Australian Government, the Shire, the community and key stakeholders are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.

The Australian Government is committed to ongoing dialogue with the community and key stakeholders to ensure cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.

### 5.3.1 Proposed Change 3

See Section 5.1.1 and 5.2.1.

## **5.4 Theme 4: Flooding on Home Island - current day, including pipes and/or drainage infrastructure insufficient/not connected**

The impact of current-day flooding is known and repeated throughout submissions. It is tied, but not directly related, to the coastal hazards predicted over the long-term.

Recognising the issue, drainage and water management studies are one of the priority recommendations of the CHRMAP, and have now commenced.

These studies will help to understand the risk related to underground services, and allow for adequate response to occur. These studies will also support far greater understanding to support Action 4 (Shire Infrastructure Asset Planning), Action 9 (Local Planning Strategy), Action 10 (Local Planning Scheme) and Action 12 (Emergency Management Planning).

### **5.4.1 Proposed Change 4**

Clarify that Action 1 (now Action 2) - Investigation into terrestrial and groundwater flooding - has commenced.

## **5.5 Theme 5: Safety; power, sewer at risk of damage and impact to community (from flooding)**

This theme is directly related to Theme 4. Responses are included in Section 5.4.

### **5.5.1 Proposed Change 5**

No further changes.

## 5.6 Theme 6: Fear of ongoing erosion

The intent of the CHRMAP is to identify vulnerability, in order to respond to it. The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the settlements, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.

The community, key stakeholders and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI. This was reflected in nearly 60% of submissions.

### 5.6.1 Proposed Change 6

Submissions in many cases appear to misunderstand recommendations responding to this issue, so it is recommended that the Executive Summary provide more simple clarification of the short-term actions proposed.

## 5.7 Theme 7: Provision of seawalls and other protections

As noted in previous themes, the intent of the CHRMAP is to identify vulnerability, in order to respond to it. The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the settlements, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.

It is noted that the majority of the 59% of submissions requesting this action be taken relate to Home Island defences.

This theme is directly related to Theme 6 and responses are included in Section 5.6.

### 5.7.1 Proposed Change 7

As per Section 5.6.

## 5.8 Theme 8: Concerns for loss of Cemetery

Fifty-six per cent of submissions reflected on the concern of the loss of land and capacity at the cemetery, which is of deep religious and cultural significance to the Cocos Malay population.

The CHRMAP recognises the cemetery specifically. Further work is required to determine the longer-term pathways for this location, in addition to short-term recommendations for increased protection/defence. Extensive engagement with senior leaders has occurred to better understand the needs for this location, which can inform ongoing studies.

This theme is directly related to Theme 6 and 7 and responses are included in Section 5.6.

### 5.8.1 Proposed Change 8

It is recommended that the recommendations specifically referencing the cemetery be updated to reflect discussions had with Elders on-island during the public consultation period.

## 5.9 Theme 9: A desire for a partnership approach with the community

Some 55% of submissions requested ongoing partnership and opportunities to collaborate on the delivery of the CHRMAP. The submissions reflect an open invitation to the Australian Government to partner and collaborate with community. The significance of the coastal hazards on CKI will require collaboration between government and community to address them.

Combined with the historical engagement with senior leaders of the Cocos Malay community, who displayed an ongoing willingness to work together on this difficult challenge, it is recommended that an approach to ongoing engagement be developed with the community and key stakeholders.

### 5.9.1 Proposed Change 9

As per Section 5.1.1.

## 5.10 Theme 10: Inadequate / lack of proper engagement

In total, some 30% of submissions indicated no or limited engagement was undertaken during preparation of the CHRMAP.

Specific engagement objectives for the CHRMAP were to:

- Inform the community and key stakeholders about the extent of potential coastal hazards and the adaptation strategies available to respond to those hazards;
  - Explain Australian, state and local governments' responsibilities and capacity to respond to potential coastal hazards, per the CKI governance framework;
  - Understand community and stakeholder values along the coastlines;
  - Invite the community and key stakeholders to bring their local knowledge, expertise and lived experience to the process and give them adequate opportunity to contribute in a way that suits their needs and circumstances;
  - Ensure that the community and key stakeholders' advice and recommendations are incorporated into the decisions to the maximum extent possible, and that this encourages a sense of community ownership for the CHRMAP;
  - The engagement will be fair, equitable, transparent and honest;
  - Develop positive relationships between all levels of government, the community and key stakeholders;
- Gain an understanding of the community and key stakeholders preferred methods of continued engagement with local, state and Australian governments.

In progressing and then releasing this CHRMAP, the Australian Government is meeting the objectives of its engagement. In particular, the first six objectives have been reflected directly. Objectives 2 - 8 will be a continual process of feedback and collaboration.

The possibility of planned and managed retreat was communicated at the first community engagement sessions in 2022, and has been accessible in publicly available documents since that time. The Community Reference Group, Elders Group and youth classes through the school were presented this information on multiple occasions.

It is worth observing that, in the absence of a document which identified the current, contemporary scientific understanding of the future coastal hazard risk on CKI and stated recommendations, the community did not engage deeply with this process until the release of the draft CHRMAP.

Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with more than 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.

Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, Administrator newsletter articles and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.

While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.

The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches. This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.

The CHRMAP is not the end of the decision-making process, but a point in time where the best available and most contemporary data is compiled and made public so that all members of the community and key stakeholders can be fully informed and active participants in their own decision making.

### 5.10.1 Proposed Change 10

As per Section 5.1.1 and 5.2.1.

## 5.11 Theme 11: Does not provide alternatives

The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.

It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.

The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process. Delivery is an ongoing process and should be done collaboratively.

Notwithstanding, the CHRMAP identifies many short-term responses, backed by ongoing research and study. It considers several practical alternatives and provides commentary on each of these based on known, measurable scientific understanding. It proposes substantial protection works in the short-term to allow time for detailed long-term decision making.

Further investigation of responses such as groynes on West Island, filling of Home Island with lagoon or local sand and reef top structures can continue, and are expressly allowed for as part of the CHRMAP.

This Theme reflects Theme 6, 7 and 10 and a response is included in Section 5.6.

### 5.11.1 Proposed Change 11

As per Section 5.6.

## 5.12 Theme 12: Challenging the scientific basis and accuracy of the report

23% of submissions queried the scientific accuracy of the documentation. One submission further suggested that data was not locally acquired, and therefore not relevant to CKI. Tied to this theme, several submissions noted that inundation is greatly overestimated, as the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami that affected nearby nations did not impact CKI.

The CHRMAP is based on the best available local data. Local data collection was critical for development of the Coastal Vulnerability Study (CVS), from which the CHRMAP draws its data inputs, with extensive Cocos (Keeling) Islands data collection.

The scope and intent of SPP 2.6 is clearly defined in legislation. The CVS has been reviewed and meets the scientific requirements of SPP 2.6 as the basis of the CHRMAP.

The CHRMAP has also been reviewed and meets the requirements of SPP 2.6. Single events, such as the Boxing Day tsunami, are important to understand but are not the only consideration in data collection, and would not change overall modelling outcomes (for example, predicted sea level rise).

As with Theme 11 (Section 5.11), this theme recognises the inherent complexity of using predictive models for long-term planning in this field. While no model can ever be a perfect prediction, the established framework provides for significant flexibility, with adaptation pathways that can be updated based on new information on risks and potential responses.

While the CHRMAP is intended to identify pathways that may be suitable over longer timeframes, it is also able to identify short-term actions that may confirm assumptions.

The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term actions to improve living conditions and address climate change impacts that the community and key stakeholders are already experiencing.

The CHRMAP engagement has as its first objective to 'inform the community and stakeholders about the extent of potential coastal hazards and the adaptation strategies available to respond to those hazards'. In progressing and then releasing this CHRMAP, the Australian Government is meeting this objective. Beyond this report, the project will comprise a continual process of feedback and collaboration to refine the pathways as indicated, so that all members of the community and key stakeholders can be fully informed and active participants in their own decision making.

### 5.12.1 Proposed Change 12

Previous recommendations seek to provide greater clarity surrounding this Theme. No further changes.

## 5.13 Theme 13: Lack of clarity on next steps

Feedback from some 17% of submissions reflect concerns that the draft CHRMAP is not complete, as it does not provide clear steps towards planned and managed retreat from the islands, and is therefore incomplete.

The CHRMAP is not designed to address single recommendations such as detail regarding relocating a community. It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for over several timeframes. The CHRMAP sets the basis for ongoing research and study.

In principle, a CHRMAP is intended to identify pathways that may be suitable – attempting to avoid pathways that remove flexibility for different decisions in the future, but is not the end of the decision-making process.

The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community, key stakeholders and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts.

Delivery is an ongoing process and should be done collaboratively, in a transparent and honest manner. Planning for climate change responses as complex as those required in CKI will depend on long-term and deep collaboration between all levels of government. The Australian Government is committed to engaging with all parties to develop these responses.

Guidelines suggested, such as those of Pacific Island nations, are important reference documents for these next steps.

The CHRMAP will support these next steps, assisting all levels of government, the community and key stakeholders to respond. Guidelines are not intended to be contained within the CHRMAP.

### 5.13.1 Proposed Change 13

Update Action 11 (Property Acquisition) as per Section 5.1.1.

## 5.14 Theme 14: Global responsibility

Submissions noted that there is a responsibility of the global community to support action for communities that are largely not responsible for the climate adaptation challenges being faced. These submissions are noted.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting Pacific Islands' national responses to climate change, including contributing to their adaptation action. The Government is also taking action to better understand Australia's own climate risks, increase our resilience, and support adaptation efforts across the nation, including CKI.

### 5.14.1 Proposed Change 14

No further changes.

## 5.15 Theme 15: School / youth involvement

The youth voice has been very strong in the submissions, reflecting 11% of submissions and requesting active participation in both short- and long-term action.

Notably, students at the schools have requested to be involved in citizen science programs, and this is to be encouraged.

It is recommended that an approach to ongoing engagement with youth be developed in partnership with the community and key stakeholders.

### 5.15.1 Proposed Change 15

As per Section 5.1.1.

## 5.16 Theme 16: No levees (traps water) & no seawalls (blocks beach access)

These submissions, approximately 11% of responses, are noted. The CHRMAP is not the end of the decision-making process, but a point in time where the best available and most contemporary data is compiled and made public so that all members of an affected community can be fully informed and active participants in their own decision making.

Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered. Delivery is an ongoing process and should be done collaboratively.

Ongoing engagement on the matters of seawalls and levees will continue to acknowledge and engage on the conflict between protection of the islands, settlement safety and access to highly valued water-based activities.

### 5.16.1 Proposed Change 16

No further changes.

## 5.17 Theme 17: Preference for the community to develop their own CHRMAP

10% of submissions, largely related to youth submissions, contend that the CHRMAP should be prepared by the Shire, and therefore that the current CHRMAP is not in accordance with the requirements.

It is typical for a local government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined in SPP 2.6 and its associated guidelines, and so external consultants are regularly engaged to complete the technical work.

In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP.

All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.

Engagement for this project has been fully documented and publicly available at all times. As noted in Chapter 3 and throughout this report, engagement activities for this CHRMAP substantively exceeded typical process, also recognising the unique remoteness and cultural factors of CKI.

A related assertion that CHRMAPs must be developed by the local authority under nation-wide requirements is incorrect. There is no national requirement for a coastal plan. SPP 2.6 requirements that apply on CKI do not specify who should prepare the plan, or demand that it be prepared, just that town planning should not happen prior to the development of a CHRMAP if coastal hazards are predicted to be present.

Additionally, some submissions assert that if planned and managed retreat is recommended, more than 90% of responses must be supportive. There is no such legislative requirement.

### 5.17.1 Proposed Change 17

As per Section 5.1.1; clarify the role of developing a CHRMAP in the Executive Summary.

## 5.18 Theme 18: Inundation and erosion not occurring

This series of submissions, some 11%, directly conflict with data and anecdotal feedback from the broader community. Aligned with youth submissions, it is likely that further youth engagement, and involvement in citizen science programs, will help to improve youth understanding of existing coastal hazards.

### 5.18.1 Proposed Change 18

No further changes.

## 5.19 Theme 19: Home Islander relocation to West Island not supported

This theme from 6% of submissions is noted. While not explicit, a further approximately 60% of submissions state a desire not to be removed from the islands, and it is assumed that this also reflects a desire from Home Islanders not to move within the islands.

The potential for relocation is considered in Theme 1 (planned and managed retreat pathways). Further engagement is recommended and this will need to be further understood.

### 5.19.1 Proposed Change 19

No further changes.

## 5.20 Theme 20: Runway cost and contradictory spending

A number of submissions suggested the expenditure on the airfield upgrade contradicts recommendations for planned and managed retreat.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project will deliver a more resilient airfield and associated facilities for all users. The upgrades will deliver significant benefits to both daily operations and airfield resilience against weather events. The project will increase the strength, height and length of the runway and strengthen airfield pavements, including taxiways and aircraft parking areas.

Raising the airfield will help to provide some immediate resilience against climate change, to ensure transportation in light of rising sea levels and inundation. The project will also improve visibility by providing airfield lighting and mitigate flooding through additional height, drainage and the construction of a seawall at the southern end of the airfield. The project will also provide a new permanent material offloading facility (reinforced wharf), which will be capable of receiving larger, heavier cargo and supporting potential future community construction activities on West Island.

The Australian Government is committed to continued engagement with the community in developing and delivering response options on this issue. Initial responses include urgent coastal protection works, and further research has been funded.

### 5.20.1 Proposed Change 20

No further changes.

## 5.21 Theme 21: Response should be equivalent to other Pacific Islands' responses

A small number of submissions noted the Australian Government commitment to supporting Pacific Island nations, both through direct spending and in-kind support.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting Pacific Islands' national responses to climate change, including contributing to their adaptation action. The Government is also taking action to better understand Australia's own climate risks, increase our resilience and support adaptation efforts across the nation, including in CKI.

### 5.21.1 Proposed Change 21

No further changes.

## 5.22 Theme 22: Oceania House

A number of submitters suggested that Oceania House was not an asset that required protection and expenditure.

This feedback is noted. While Oceania House may not be valued by the larger community, it is still an asset which requires consideration. Recommendations associated with the asset do not necessarily reflect funding commitments.

### 5.22.1 Proposed Change 22

No further changes.

## 5.23 Other submissions

### 5.23.1 Inundation maps

One submission suggested that the inundation maps are difficult to read. Further concerns were noted in on-island consultations. It is recognised that the maps provide a worst-case scenario without providing detail on how long inundation may be experienced.

It is recommended that more information be provided in the CHRMAP about the limitations of the inundation mapping.

### 5.23.2 Water Corporation assets

Water Corporation has requested some minor changes to labelling. It is recommended these be made.

### 5.23.3 Local Heritage Survey

DPLH recommend that a Local Heritage Survey (LHS) be undertaken.

The CHRMAP will be reviewed and updated to reflect a recommendation to include an LHS. An LHS will not be complete prior to the finalisation of the CHRMAP, due to the urgent nature of other works reliant on its endorsement.

### 5.23.4 Boat ramp

An email provided to the project team during engagement (but not submitted formally) has sought an update to the report regarding the now non-existent Rumah Baruh Ramp. This change is recommended to reflect the current circumstances.

# Chapter 6 Recommendations



# 6 Recommendations

This section summarises recommended changes and actions to be taken to finalise the CHRMAP.

Theme	Recommended Changes
Theme 1: Do not support / are concerned about retreat pathway Theme 3: Connection to culture Theme 9: Partnership Theme 10: Inadequate engagement Theme 15: Youth engagement	Update language throughout as discussed - retreat language, overall language of CHRMAP being a planning tool, not a final decision.  A differentiation between minor asset 'Relocation', service asset 'Services Relocation' and 'Long-Term Settlement Planning' will be described in more detail. This will include updates to the Common Definitions, descriptions in Section 6 and Table 28, and throughout Section 7, 8 and 10.
Theme 2: Desire for ongoing action Theme 3: Connection to culture	Include a clear statement in the introduction of the CHRMAP regarding need to commence detailed work with the community. Include a new Action regarding community engagement which is based on long-term partnership and collaboration for decision-making.  Clarify that Action 1 (Investigation into terrestrial and groundwater flooding) has commenced. Insert a new Action regarding ongoing engagement and/or update Action 6 (Communications) and bring forward to create a new Action 1 (renumber subsequent actions).
Theme 2: Desire for ongoing action Theme 4: Flooding / drainage current Theme 5: Services	Clarify that Action 1 (Investigation into terrestrial and groundwater flooding) has commenced.
Theme 6: Fear of erosion Theme 7: Provision of seawalls	Submissions in many cases appear to misunderstand recommendations that propose to respond to this issue, so it is recommended that the Executive Summary provide more simple clarification of the first actions proposed.
Theme 8: Loss of cemetery	It is recommended that the recommendations specifically referencing the cemetery be updated to reflect discussion had with Elders on-island during the public consultation period.
Theme 17: Own CHRMAP	Clarify role of developing a CHRMAP in the Executive Summary.
Other Issues	Update terminology regarding the Rumah Baruh Boat Ramp, per the requests of Water Corporation, DPLH and the email.



# Appendices

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

# Appendix A

## Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
1	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND / COASTAL EROSION</b>                      [name removed]. I live at [location removed]. With this submission letter, I wish to bring awareness to the Commonwealth of matters concerning the frequent flooding in the Cocos Islands and the danger of coastal erosion. Ever since I was a child, I have been observing the changes taking place in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, in the condition of the places and the shorelines where the Cocos Malay community resides on Home Island. I am deeply concerned about these changes because areas that rarely flooded are now experiencing floods. Similarly, the shorelines are at risk of collapsing due to erosion by seawater. This issue is not limited to Home Island; other islands have also become smaller. My place is often affected by flood whenever strong winds and heavy rain hit the Cocos Islands, causing rainwater to flow down from the roads. Therefore, I request that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands work together to address the issue happening in the Cocos Islands and to act quickly for the safety of the Cocos Islands and its community.</p>	<p>The Australian Government acknowledges the community expectation that the Australian Government and the Shire will act together to protect the safety of the CKI community. The intent of the CHRMAP is to identify vulnerability, which is itself an assessment of community safety. In preparing the CHRMAP the Australian Government is in a much better position to respond to this expectation in partnership with the Shire and the community. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and once complete assessment of other aspects potentially impacted, such as underground services, will also be undertaken.</p>
2	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND</b>                      [name removed]. I live at [location removed]. The purpose of this letter of compliance (submission) to the Commonwealth is to express my concerns about the flooding and the dangerous risk of coastal erosion that is happening frequently on Home Island, where I live. Every year between November and April, the island is frequently hit by strong winds (storms), heavy rain, and large waves. When storms bring two to three days of heavy rain, Home Island becomes flooded with rainwater in the low-lying areas. Various places are flooded, especially in the village where the community lives. At my place, rainwater running down from the roads floods the house and the kitchen. During floods, I use sandbags to block the advancing water, and (yet) the floodwater reaches all the freezers and refrigerators. In the village, the football field and other areas that never flooded before are now flooding. The village row where my friends and I live is very low and close to the beach. The Shire of the Cocos Islands has installed four water pipes in the upper village to drain floodwater into the sea, but the pipes are too small and slow to drain the water. Rainwater floods areas from the front (all the way) to the back. In the upper village (Southern Kampong), which is flat and low, flooding happens most easily and quickly during heavy rain, reaching depths of 300–400 mm. Floods often enter private homes, reaching 150 mm in the kitchen and 100 mm inside the house, and on the ground it rises to 300 mm or more. Some areas are more badly affected by the flood. Flooding during heavy rain often results from rainwater running down from the roads to the low-lying areas, as the roads built by the Shire of the Cocos Islands slope downward at the front and upward at the back. When rainwater fills up at the back, all that water flows into the low-lying areas. The Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands has installed three soak wells for rainwater, but the Shire did not install underground pipes to channel the water out to the beach. As a result, the water that stays in these soak wells becomes smelly and attracts mosquitoes. The Shire also installed pipes that are buried beside the upper village and beside the new village for stormwater drainage to the beach, but they are too small. For this reason, this annual flooding greatly worries me everyone living on Home Island. We are also concerned about the underground infrastructure, such as electrical cables, the sewage vacuum system, and others. Given the great concern that the underground infrastructure is not up to standards, I urge the Commonwealth, the Shire of the Cocos Islands, and the Water Corporation to consider and make changes to re-route and relocate the underground cables to higher, safer ground, away from danger. Similarly, the sewage vacuum system needs to be improved to avoid damage and blockage. I ask that this matter be considered and steps be taken as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>
	<p><b>DANGER OF COASTAL EROSION</b>                      Compared to 60 years ago, the Cocos Islands have changed significantly and have become smaller due to the continuous erosion of the shoreline by the seawater. This is happening everywhere around the Cocos Islands. Because the front part of the beach along the coast has been heavily eroded by saltwater, the Shire of the Cocos Islands has placed sandbags along half the shoreline in an attempt to stop the saltwater from eroding it. This attempt has been very successful and the shoreline is no longer eroded by water. The sandbags are arranged along half the shoreline on the western part of the village, in the first row and on the beach at the cemetery. Although the sandbags have been placed and there has been no further erosion by saltwater, with bad weather, high tides, and large waves, seawater (still) reaches inland because the sandbags are not high enough. Sandbags have not yet been placed in other parts of the island, including the beach beside the upper village. In my opinion, sandbags should be placed along the shoreline all around the front of the island to prevent saltwater from eroding it. I request that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands address the issue of coastal erosion around the front of the island and to raise the height (of the sandbags). And I ask that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands act urgently to save the island and its people—now and for the future.</p>	<p>The Australian Government acknowledges the community expectation that the Australian Government and the Shire will act together to protect the safety of the CKI community. The intent of the CHRMAP is to identify vulnerability, which is itself an assessment of community safety. In preparing the CHRMAP the Australian Government is in a much better position to respond to this expectation in partnership with the Shire and the community. The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.</p>
	<p><b>LEAVING THE ISLAND</b>                      I was born in the Cocos Islands and I am now [removed] years old. I have never lived anywhere else but the Cocos Islands. Most of those who were born here have moved to Malaysia to live in Sabah, Malaysia, and some have moved to live in Western Australia. Because I love my homeland, I have no interest in joining those who have left the Cocos Islands to reside elsewhere. This is because I do not want to lose my racial identity and birthplace, my customs and traditions, my culture. I love the natural environment of the Cocos Islands, its ocean and its atmosphere. I love the Cocos Malay community. I don't want to lose our language. I don't want to lose our home. What I fear most is the future of my children and grandchildren. That is why, no matter what happens to the Cocos Islands in the future, I do not wish to leave and live elsewhere. So, I will pray to God for the Cocos Islands to remain here 50–60 years from now. I therefore urge the Commonwealth and the Shire to ponder and consider the concerns I've raised above to save the Cocos Islands and the young generation of the future.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity, is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND</b>                      [name removed]. I live at [location removed]. The purpose of this letter of submission to the Commonwealth is to express my concerns about the frequent flooding and the dangerous risk of coastal erosion on Home Island, where I reside. Every year, between November and April, the island is frequently hit by strong winds (storms), heavy rain, and large waves. When storms bring heavy rain over 2 to 3 days, Home Island becomes flooded with rainwater in the low-lying areas. Various places are flooded, especially in the village where the community lives. At my place, rainwater that runs off from the roads floods the house and the kitchen. During floods, I use sandbags to block the advancing water, and (still) all the freezers and refrigerators are affected by the floodwater. In the village, the football field and other areas that never used to flood are now flooding. The village row where my friends and I live is very low and close to the beach. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Shire has installed four water pipes in the upper village to drain floodwater to the sea, but the pipes are too small, causing water to drain slowly. Rainwater floods the area, from the front to the back. In the upper (Southern Kampong) part of the village, where the land is flat and low, flooding occurs most easily and quickly during heavy rain, reaching depths of 300–400mm. Floodwater often enters private homes, reaching 150mm in the kitchen and 100mm inside the house, and on the ground it rises to 300mm or more. Some areas are more badly affected by the flood. Floodwaters during heavy rain often come from the roads, where the runoff flows to low areas, because the roads were built by the Shire of Cocos Islands with a downward slope in the front and an upward slope at the back. When rainwater fills up at the back, all that water flows into the low-lying areas. The Shire of the Cocos Islands has installed three soak wells for rainwater, but did not install underground pipes to drain the water out to the sea. As a result, the water that stays in these soak wells becomes smelly, and attracts mosquitoes. The Shire also installed underground pipes beside the upper village and the new village to drain floodwater from the rain to the beach, but the pipes are too small. Because of this, I and all the residents of Home Island are deeply worried about the annual flooding. There are also concern about the underground infrastructure such as electrical cables, the sewage vacuum system, and others. Given the great concern about the underground infrastructure not being up to standards, I request that the Commonwealth, the Shire of the Cocos Islands, and the Water Corporation consider and make changes to re-route and relocate these underground cables to higher, safer areas, away from danger. The sewage vacuum system also needs to be improved to prevent failure and blockage. I ask that these issues be considered and steps be taken urgently.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>
3	<p><b>DANGER OF COASTAL EROSION</b>                      Compared to 60 years ago, the Cocos Islands have significantly changed and shrunk due to the continuous coastal erosion by the seawater. This is happening everywhere around the Cocos Islands. Because the front part of the beach along the coast has already been significantly eroded by saltwater, the Shire of the Cocos Islands has placed sand-filled bags along half the coastline to try and prevent erosion by saltwater. This attempt has been very successful and the shoreline is no longer eroded by water. The sandbags are arranged along half the shoreline on the western side of the village, in the first row and on the beach at the cemetery. Although the sandbags have been placed and there has been no further erosion by saltwater, with bad weather, high tides, and strong waves, the seawater (still) reaches inland because the sandbags are not high enough. Sandbags have not yet been placed in other parts of the island, including the beach beside the upper village. In my opinion, the coastline around front of the island needs to have sandbags placed to prevent saltwater from eating away at the beach. I request the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to address the issue of coastal erosion around the front of the island and to raise the height (of the protective barriers). And I request that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos Islands act as soon as possible to save the island and its community – now and for the future.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.</p>
	<p><b>LEAVING THE ISLAND</b>                      I was born in the Cocos Islands and I am now [removed] years old. I have never lived anywhere else but the Cocos Islands. Most of the people who were born here have moved to Malaysia to live in Sabah, Malaysia and some have moved to live in Western Australia. Because I love my homeland, I have no interest in joining those who have left the Cocos Islands to reside elsewhere. This is because I don't want to lose my racial identity and birthplace, my customs and traditions, my culture. I love the natural environment of the Cocos Islands, its ocean and its atmosphere. I love the Cocos Malay community. I don't want to lose our language. I don't want to lose our home. My biggest worry is the future of my children and grandchildren. Therefore, no matter what happens to the Cocos Islands in the future, I do not want to leave and live anywhere else but here. So, I will pray to God for the Cocos Islands to still exist 50–60 years from now. I therefore humbly urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos Islands to ponder and consider the matters I mentioned above to save the Cocos Islands and its future young generations.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>
4	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND / COASTAL EROSION</b>                      [name removed]. I live at [location removed], very close to the beach on the western side of Home Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, in the front row. With this submission letter, I would like to bring awareness to the Commonwealth of matters concerning the frequent flooding in the Cocos Islands and the danger of coastal erosion. Ever since I was a child, I have been observing the changes taking place on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, in the condition of places and coastlines where the Cocos Malay community lives on Home Island. I am very concerned about these changes, as areas that rarely flooded are now flooding. Coastal areas are also at risk of collapse from being eaten away by seawater. This is happening not only on Home Island; other islands have also become smaller. Where I live, flooding often occurs when the Cocos Islands experience strong winds and heavy rain, with rainwater running down the roads. Even worse, when strong winds blow from the west, the sea level rises (high tide), and the waves increase in size, causing seawater to reach inland. Therefore, I request that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands work together to address the problems occurring in the Cocos Islands and to act quickly – for the safety of the Cocos Islands and its people.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>

#	Submission	Response
5	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND / COASTAL EROSION</b>                      [name removed]. I live at [location removed] near the back of the island, on Home Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands. With this submission letter, I would like to bring awareness to the Commonwealth of matters concerning the frequent flooding in the Cocos Islands and the danger of coastal erosion. Ever since I was a child, I have been observing the changes taking place in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, in the condition of the places and coastlines where the Cocos Malay community lives on Home Island. I am very concerned about these changes, because areas that rarely flooded are now starting to flood. Coastal erosion is also a danger, as the seawater eats away at the shoreline. This isn't only happening on Home Island; other islands have also shrunk in size. Where I live, flooding often happens during storms and heavy rains, with water flowing down from the roads. When strong winds blow from the north, the sea level rises (high tide), and the waves get bigger, seawater reaches inland, carrying debris with it. Therefore, I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to cooperate in addressing the issues happening in the Cocos Islands and to take swift action – for the safety of the islands and its community.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>
	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND</b>                      [name removed]. I was born in the Cocos Islands and have lived here since birth. My family and I live at [location removed]. I have children and grandchildren living with me. I wish to lodge this letter of compliance (submission) to the Commonwealth expressing my concerns about the flooding and the dangerous risk of coastal erosion that are frequently occurring on Home Island, where I live. Each year, between November and April, the island experiences frequent strong winds, heavy rains, and waves. Home Island is hit by floods everywhere, especially in the village where the community lives. In the village, the football field and other areas that never used to flood are now starting to flood. The Southern Kampong (upper village), which is flat and low-lying, floods most easily and quickly during heavy rains – up to 300–400 mm deep. Floodwater often enter private homes, rising to 150 mm in the kitchen and 100 mm inside the house, and 300 mm or more on the ground. Some areas are more badly affected by the flood. Flooding during heavy rain usually comes from the runoff of rainwater downhill from the roads, which the Shire of the Cocos Islands built sloping forward but raised at the back. When rainwater fills up at the back, all that water flows into the low areas. The Shire of the Cocos Islands has installed three soak wells for the rainwater, but the Shire did not install underground pipes to drain the water out to the beach. So, the water that stays in the soak wells becomes smelly and attracts mosquitoes. The Shire also installed underground pipes beside the upper village and the new village to drain floodwater from the rain to the beach, but the pipes are too small. Because of this, I and all the residents of Home Island are very concerned about this annual flooding. There is also worry about the underground infrastructure, such as electrical cables, the sewage vacuum system and others. Given the great concern that this underground infrastructure may not be up to standard, I urge the Commonwealth, the Shire, and the Water Corporation to consider and make changes to re-route and relocate these underground cables to higher, safer ground, away from danger. The sewage vacuum system also needs to be improved to prevent damage and blockage. I ask that these issues be considered and steps be taken as soon as possible. I previously worked with Asset Services and the Water Corporation. I had noticed and felt rather dissatisfied with the Commonwealth, regarding the discrepancy in service equipment provided to West Island and Home Island, relative to the population. For example, equipment for treatment plants, lighting engines, and others.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>
6	<p><b>DANGER OF COASTAL EROSION</b>                      Compared to 60 years ago, the Cocos Islands have changed significantly and become smaller due to the continuous coastal erosion caused by the seawater. This is happening everywhere around the Cocos Islands. Because the front part of the beach along the coast is heavily eroded by saltwater, the Shire of the Cocos Islands has placed sandbags along half the coast to try and prevent the saltwater from eroding the shoreline. This attempt has been very effective and the shoreline is no longer eroded by water. The sandbags are arranged along half the shoreline on the western side of the village, in the first row and on the beach at the cemetery. Although the sandbags have been placed and there has been no further erosion by saltwater, the seawater (still) reaches land with bad weather, high tides and strong waves because the sandbags are not high enough. Sandbags have not been placed all around the island, including the beach beside the upper village (Kampong Atas). In my opinion, all around the front of the island needs to have sandbags placed to prevent saltwater from eroding the coastline. I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to address the issue of coastal erosion around the front of the island and to raise the height (of the sandbags). And I request that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos Islands act as soon as possible to save the island and its community.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.</p>
	<p><b>LEAVING THE ISLAND</b>                      I was born in the Cocos Islands and I am now [removed] years old. I have never lived anywhere else but the Cocos Islands. Most Cocos-born residents have moved to Malaysia to live in Sabah, Malaysia and some have moved to live in Western Australia. Because I love my homeland, I have no interest in joining those who have left the Cocos Islands to reside elsewhere. This is because I don't want to lose my racial identity and birthplace, my customs and traditions, my culture. I love the natural environment of the Cocos Islands, its ocean and its atmosphere. I love the Cocos Malay community. I don't want to lose our language. I don't want to lose our home. I am especially worried about the future of my children and grandchildren. Therefore, no matter what happens to the Cocos Islands in the future, I do not wish to move away from the Cocos Islands and live elsewhere. So, I will pray to God that in the next 50–60 years, the Cocos Islands will still exist. Therefore, I ask the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos Islands to ponder and consider the matters I mentioned above to save the Cocos Islands and its future young generations.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity, is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
7	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND</b>                      [name removed]. I live at [location removed]. The purpose of this letter of compliance (submission) to the Commonwealth is to raise my concerns about the flooding and the dangerous risk of coastal erosion that is happening often on Home Island, where I live. Every year, from November to April, the island is frequently hit by strong winds (storms), heavy rain, and large waves. When storms bring heavy rain lasting 2–3 days, Home Island frequently floods in the low-lying areas. Various places are flooded, especially in the village where the community lives. At my place, rainwater flows down from the roads and causes flooding in the house and the kitchen. During floods, I use sandbags to block the incoming water, and (yet) the floodwater gets to all the freezers and refrigerators. In the village, the football field and other areas that never used to flood are now flooding. My house and the homes of other friends are located in the row of the village that is very low-lying and close to the shoreline. Therefore, sometimes rainwater mixes with the saltwater because when strong winds blow from the south, large waves and high tides push seawater inland. The Shire of the Cocos Islands has installed four water pipes in the upper village to drain floodwater into the sea, but the pipes are too small, causing water to drain into the sea slowly. Rainwater floods areas from the front all the way to the back. In the upper village (Southern Kampong), which is flat and low-lying, flooding happens most easily and quickly when there's heavy rainfall—up to 300–400 mm deep. Floodwater often enters homes up to 150 mm deep in the kitchen and 100 mm inside the house, and outside, it can reach 300 mm or more. Some areas are more badly affected by the flood. When it rains heavily, flood comes from the roads. Rainwater that falls on the roads flows down into the low-lying areas because the road was built by the Shire of the Cocos Islands sloping downward at the front and upward at the back. When rainwater fills up at the back, all that water flows down into the low areas. The Shire of the Cocos Islands has installed three soak wells for rainwater, but they did not install underground pipes to drain the water to the beach. As a result, the water that stays in the soak wells becomes smelly and attract mosquitoes. The Shire also installed underground pipes beside the upper village and the new village to channel floodwater from the rain to the sea, but the pipes are too small. This is why I and all the residents on Home Island are deeply concerned about the floods that recur each year. There is also concern about the underground infrastructure, such as electrical cables, the sewage vacuum system and others. Due to the great concern about the underground infrastructure not being up to standards, I am requesting that the Commonwealth, the Shire of the Cocos Islands, and the Water Corporation consider and take action to re-route and relocate the underground cables to safer, higher locations, away from danger. The sewage vacuum system also needs to be improved to prevent blockage and failure. I urge that these matters be considered and acted upon as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>
	<p><b>DANGER OF COASTAL EROSION</b>                      Compared to 60 years ago, the Cocos Islands have significantly changed and reduced in size due to the ongoing coastal erosion caused by seawater. This is happening across the Cocos Islands. Along the shoreline, because the front part of beach has been heavily eroded by saltwater, the Shire of the Cocos Islands has placed sandbags along half the shoreline to try and stop the coastal erosion by saltwater. This attempt has been very successful. The coastal erosion has stopped. The sandbags are arranged along half the beach on the western side of the village, in the first row and on the beach at the cemetery area. Although the sandbags have been placed and there has been no further erosion by saltwater, with bad weather, high tides and large waves, seawater (still) reaches the land because the sandbags are not high enough. Sandbags have not yet been placed around the entire island, including along the shoreline beside the upper village. In my opinion, sandbags need to be placed along the entire front shoreline to prevent erosion of the coast by saltwater. I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to consider the issue of coastal erosion around the front of the island and raise the height (of the barriers) And I request that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos Islands take swift action to save the island and its people for the sake of the present and future generations.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.</p>
	<p><b>LEAVING THE ISLAND</b>                      I was born in the Cocos Islands and I am now [removed] years old. I have never lived anywhere else besides the Cocos Islands. Most people who were born here have already moved to Malaysia to live in Sabah, Malaysia and some have relocated to live in Western Australia. Because I love my homeland, I have no interest in joining those who have left the Cocos Islands to reside elsewhere. This is because I do not want to lose my racial identity and birthplace, my customs and traditions, my culture. I love the natural environment of the Cocos Islands, its ocean, and its atmosphere. I love the Cocos Malay community. I do not want to lose our language or our home. What I fear most is the future of my children and grandchildren. Therefore, no matter what happens to the Cocos Islands in the future, I do not want to leave the Cocos Islands and live elsewhere. So, I will pray to God for the Cocos Islands to still be here in the next 50–60 years. Therefore, I request that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos Islands ponder and consider the matters I mentioned above to save the Cocos Island and the younger generations to come.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity, is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>

#	Submission	Response
8	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND</b>                      [name removed]. I live at [location removed]. The purpose of this letter of compliance (submission) to the Commonwealth is to express my concerns about the frequent flooding and dangerous risk of coastal erosion that is occurring on Home Island, where I reside. Each year, from November to April, the island frequently experiences strong winds (storms), heavy rainfall, and large waves. When storms bring continuous heavy rainfall for two to three days, Home Island often becomes flooded in the low-lying areas. Flooding frequently affects many areas, especially the village where the community lives. The football field and other areas that never used to flood are now starting to flood. In the village row where my friends and I live, the land is very low and close to the coastline. Therefore, sometimes rainwater mixes with the saltwater when strong southern winds create large waves and high tides, pushing seawater inland. The Shire of the Cocos Islands has installed four water pipes in Kampong Atas to drain floodwater into the sea. However, the pipes are too small, and water drains into the sea slowly. Rainwater floods areas from the front to the back. In Kampong Atas (Southern Kampong), which is flat and low-lying, floods occur most easily and quickly when there's heavy rain—reaching depths of 300–400 mm. Floodwater that often enters private homes reach 150 mm in the kitchen and 100 mm inside the house, and reaching 300 mm or more outside. Some areas are more badly affected by the flood. When it rains heavily, flood comes from the roads. Rainwater that falls on the roads flows into the low-lying areas. This is because the roads built by the Shire of the Cocos Islands slope downward at the front and upward at the back. When rainwater fills up at the back, it flows into the low-lying areas. The Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands has installed three soak wells for rainwater, but the Shire did not install underground pipes to drain that water out to the sea. As a result, the water that stays in the soak wells becomes smelly and attracts mosquitoes. The Shire has also installed drainage pipes buried beside Kampong Atas and Kampong Baru to channel floodwater from the rain to the sea, but these pipes are also too small. Because of this, I and all the residents of Home Island are deeply concerned about the recurring floods each year. There are also worries about the underground infrastructure, such as electrical cables, the sewage vacuum system and others. Due to the great concern that the infrastructure are not up to standards, I request that the Commonwealth, the Shire of the Cocos Islands, and the Water Corporation consider and make changes to re-route and relocate the cables to higher, safer ground, away from danger. The sewage vacuum system also needs to be improved to prevent breakdown and blockage. I urge that this matter be considered and that prompt action be taken.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>
	<p><b>DANGER OF COASTAL EROSION</b>                      Compared to 50 years ago, the Cocos Islands have significantly changed and become smaller, due to the continuous coastal erosion by seawater. This is happening all around the Cocos Islands. Along the shoreline, because the front part of the beach has been heavily eroded by saltwater, the Shire of the Cocos Islands has placed sand-filled bags along half the coastline in an attempt to prevent coastal erosion by saltwater. This attempt has proven to be very successful and has stopped this erosion by water. The sandbags are arranged along half the beach on the western side of the village, in the first row and at the cemetery shore. Even though the sandbags have been placed and there has been no further erosion by saltwater, with rough weather, high tides, and big waves, seawater (still) reaches inland because the sandbags are not high enough. Sandbags have yet to be placed in all parts of the island, including along the beach near Kampong Atas. In my view, the shoreline at the front of the island needs sandbags to prevent erosion by saltwater. I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to consider the issue of coastal erosion around the front of the island and to raise the height (of the protective barriers). And I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos Islands to act quickly to save the island and its people.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.</p>
	<p><b>LEAVING THE ISLAND</b>                      I was born in the Cocos Islands and I am now [removed] years old. I have never lived anywhere else but the Cocos Islands. Most people born in the Cocos Islands have moved to Malaysia, to live in Sabah, Malaysia and some have relocated to live in Western Australia. Because of my love for my homeland, I have no interest in joining those who have left the Cocos Islands to live elsewhere. I do not want to lose my racial identity and birthplace, my customs and traditions, my culture. I love the natural environment of the Cocos Islands, its ocean, and its atmosphere. I love the Cocos Malay community. I do not want to lose the language or my home. What I worry most about is the future of my children and grandchildren. Therefore, no matter what happens to the Cocos Islands in the future, I do not wish to leave and live anywhere else. So, I will pray to God for the Cocos Islands to still exist in the next 50 to 60 years. Hence, I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos Islands to ponder and consider the concerns I have raised above and to save the Cocos Islands and the future generations of its people.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity, is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>

#	Submission	Response
9	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND</b>                      [name removed]. I was born in the Cocos Islands and have lived here since birth. My family and I live at [location removed] in the village row near the beach, approximately 50 yards from the shoreline on Home Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands. I have children and grandchildren who live with me. The purpose of this letter of compliance (submission) to the Commonwealth is to express my concern regarding the frequent flooding and the dangerous risk of coastal erosion happening on Home Island, where I live. From November to April every year, the island is often hit by strong winds (storms), heavy rain, and large waves. When a storm hits and brings heavy rain for 2–3 days, Home Island is often flooded in the low-lying areas. Various places are flooded, especially in the village where the community lives. Around the village, the football field and other places that never flooded before have started flooding. The village row where my friends and I live is very low and close to the beach. Therefore, rainwater sometimes mixes with the saltwater, as strong westerly winds push large waves and high tides inland. The Shire of the Cocos Islands has installed a water pipe in front of my house to drain floodwater to the sea but the pipe they installed is too small, and the drainage is slow. Rainwater floods the area from the front to the back. In the upper village (Southern Kampong), which is flat and low, flooding happens most easily and quickly when heavy rain falls, reaching depths of 300–400mm. Floods often enter private homes, reaching 150mm in the kitchen and 100mm in living areas, and 300mm or more on the ground outside. Some areas experience even worse flooding. Floodwaters during heavy rain is usually caused by the runoff of rainwater from the roads to low areas because the roads were built sloping downwards at the front and upwards at the back by the Shire of the Cocos Islands. When rainwater fills up at the back, all that water flows into the low-lying areas. The Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands has installed three soak wells for rainwater, but they did not install underground pipes to drain the water out to the sea. As a result, the water that stays in the soak wells become smelly and attracts mosquitoes. The Shire also installed pipes that are buried beside the upper village (Southern Kampong) and beside the new village (Kampong Baru) for floodwater drainage to the beach, but they are too small. For this reason, I and all the residents of Home Island are deeply concerned about the floods that happen every year. There is also concern about the underground infrastructure, such as electrical cables, the sewage vacuum system, and others. Given the great concern that the underground infrastructure is not up to standards, I urge the Commonwealth, the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and the Water Corporation to consider and make changes to re-route and relocate the underground cables to higher, safer locations, away from danger. The sewage vacuum system should also be improved to avoid blockage and breakdown. I request that these matters be considered and that immediate action be taken.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone’s safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>
	<p><b>DANGER OF COASTAL EROSION</b>                      Compared to 60 years ago, the Cocos Islands have significantly changed and become smaller due to continuous coastal erosion by the seawater. This is happening throughout the Cocos Islands. Because the front part of the beach along the coast has been heavily eroded by saltwater, the Shire of the Cocos Islands has placed sandbags along half the coastline in an attempt to prevent the seawater from eroding the shore. This attempt has been very successful and the shoreline is no longer eroded by water. The sandbags are arranged along half the shoreline on the western side of the village, in the first row and on the beach at the cemetery. Although the sandbags have been placed and there has been no further erosion by saltwater, seawater (still) reaches inland with bad weather, high tides, and large waves because the sandbags are not high enough. Sandbags have not been placed in all parts of the island, including the beach at Kampong Atas. In my view, the entire front coastline needs to be protected with sandbags to prevent erosion by saltwater. I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to address the coastal erosion issue along the front of the island and raise the height (of the protective barriers). And I ask that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to act urgently to save the islands and its community.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone’s safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.</p>
	<p><b>LEAVING THE ISLAND</b>                      I was born in the Cocos Islands and I am now [removed] years old. I have never lived anywhere else but the Cocos Islands. Most people born here have moved to Malaysia to live in Sabah, Malaysia and some have moved to live in Western Australia. Because I love my homeland, I have no interest in joining those who have left the Cocos Islands and live elsewhere. I do not want to lose my racial identity and my birthplace, my customs and traditions, my culture. I love the natural environment of the Cocos Islands, its ocean and its atmosphere. I love the Cocos Malay community. I do not want to lose the language or my home. What I fear most is the future of my children and grandchildren. Therefore, no matter what happens to the Cocos Islands in the future, I do not want to leave the Cocos Islands and live elsewhere other than the Cocos Islands. So, I will pray to God that the Cocos Islands will still exist 50–60 years from now. Therefore, I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to ponder and consider the concerns I’ve raised above to save the Cocos Islands and the future young generations.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity, is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>

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	<p><b>FLOODING ON HOME ISLAND</b>                      [name removed]. I live at [location removed]. The purpose of this letter of compliance (submission) to the Commonwealth is to raise my concerns regarding the flooding and the dangerous risk of coastal erosion occurring frequently on Home Island, where I reside. Every year, from November to April, the island is hit by strong winds (storms), heavy rain, and large waves. When a storm hits, bringing rain for 2–3 days, Home Island becomes flooded with rainwater in the low-lying areas. Various places are flooded, mainly the village where the community lives. In my area, rainwater flowing down from the road causes flooding in the house and the kitchen. When flooding happens, I use sandbags to block the advancing water, and (yet) all the freezers and refrigerators are hit by the floodwater. In the village, the football field and other places which never used to flood are now starting to flood. The village row where my friends and I live are located in very low-lying areas near the shoreline. The Shire of the Cocos Islands has installed four water pipes in the upper village area to drain floodwater into the sea, but the pipes are too small and slow to drain the water into the sea. Rainwater floods from the front all the way to the back. In the upper village (Southern Kampong), which is flat and low-lying, floods occur most quickly and easily during heavy rains, with water levels reaching 300–400 mm. Floods often happen in private homes, reaching 150 mm in the kitchen and 100 mm inside the house, and more than 300 mm on the ground. Some areas are more badly affected by the flood. Flooding always begins with rainwater flowing down from the roads to the low-lying areas, as the roads built by the Shire of the Cocos Islands slope downward in the front and upward at the back. When rainwater fills up at the back, all that water flows into the lower areas. The Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands has installed three soak wells for rainwater, but they did not install underground pipes to drain this water into the sea. As a result, the water that stays in these soak wells becomes smelly and attracts mosquitoes. The Shire has also installed pipes that are buried beside the upper and new village areas to drain stormwater to the sea, but the pipes are too small. Because of this, I and all the residents of Home Island are deeply concerned about the ongoing annual flooding. We are also worried about the underground infrastructure—such as electrical cables, the vacuum sewage system, and others. Given the great concern that the underground infrastructure is not up to standards, I request that the Commonwealth, the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and the Water Corporation consider and make changes to re-route and relocate the underground cables to higher, safer areas, away from danger. The sewage vacuum system should also be improved to prevent blockage and failure. I urge for these concerns to be considered and steps to be taken swiftly.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone’s safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services, assessment will also be undertaken.</p>
10	<p><b>DANGER OF COASTAL EROSION</b>                      Compared to 60 years ago, the Cocos Islands have changed significantly and are now smaller, due to the ongoing coastal erosion caused by seawater. This is happening throughout the Cocos Islands. Because the front part of the beach along the coast has been heavily eroded by saltwater, the Shire of the Cocos Islands has placed sand-filled bags along half the coast in an attempt to stop the erosion of the coast by saltwater. This attempt has been very effective and the shoreline is no longer eroded by water. The sandbags are arranged along half the beach in the western part of the village, in the first row and on the beach at the burial grounds. Although the sandbags have been placed and there has been no further erosion by saltwater, with bad weather, high tides and large waves, the seawater rises to the inland, because the sandbags are not high enough. Sandbags have not yet been placed in other areas around the island, including near the upper village beach area. In my opinion, sandbags need to be placed along the entire front part of the beach to prevent the shore from being eroded by saltwater. I ask the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to consider the issue of coastal erosion in the front areas of the island, and to increase the height (of the protective barriers). And I ask that the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands take immediate action to save the island and its people—now and for the future.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone’s safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.</p>
	<p><b>LEAVING THE ISLAND</b>                      I was born in the Cocos Islands and I am now [removed] years old. I have never lived anywhere else but the Cocos Islands. Most people who were born here have already moved to Malaysia to live in Sabah, Malaysia and some have moved to live in Western Australia. Because I love my homeland, I have no interest in joining those groups to leave the Cocos Islands and live elsewhere. I do not want to lose my racial identity and my birthplace, my customs and traditions, my culture. I love the natural environment of the Cocos Islands, the sea, the atmosphere. I love the Cocos Malay community. I do not want to lose our language or our home. What concerns me most is the future of my children and grandchildren. That is why, no matter what happens to the Cocos Islands in the future, I do not wish to leave the Cocos Islands and live elsewhere other than the Cocos Islands. So, I will pray to God that the Cocos Islands will still be here 50 or 60 years from now. Therefore, I urge the Commonwealth and the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to ponder and consider the concerns I mentioned above to save the Cocos Islands and its future young generations.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity, is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>
11	<p>In this submission as a resident of the Cocos Island, I would like to express my deep concerns about the impact of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands with the coastal hazard risk and the flood issues regular happen on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands when the islands hit by the cyclone and brings the heavy rain to the islands. The cyclone season on the Cocos Islands happen once per year between November to April. Although the islands doesn’t totally hit by the eye of the cyclone, however, away of 100 to 200 km from the islands, but it’s still developed with high speed wind, heavy rain and develop a big swell action. Due to the above action situations the islands is fully affected with flood, the coastal has a risk and the seawater jumps to the land. Especially if the seawater level up to 1.7m.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone’s safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways.</p> <p>The Australian Government acknowledges the community expectation that the Australian Government and the Shire will act together to protect the safety of the CKI community. The intent of the CHRMAP is to identify vulnerability, which is itself an assessment of community safety. In preparing the CHRMAP the Australian Government is in a much better position to respond to this expectation in partnership with the Shire and the community and is committed to ongoing dialogue with the community about next steps and pathways.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
11 (cont'd)	The whole islands, including the Home island and other islands are fully affected with the coastal hazard risk from time to time due to the erosion, the islands to become thin. The Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands has established the sandbag along the beaches line to stop the erosion, but however, the work hasn't completed as yet and there are still more to be done.	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies, which are underway.</p>
	[name and detail removed], and fully, concerns about the cemetery on Home Island. The cemetery land on home Island is become smaller and smaller due to the coastal hazard risk. And in the future if the cemetery land on Home Island hasn't been look at and fill out more sand to community will run out of space.	The CHRMAP recognises the cemetery specifically. Further work is required to determine the longer-term pathways for this location, notwithstanding short-term recommendations for increased protection/defence.
	<p>With the flood issue especially, on Home Island where the majority of the Cocos Malays are residing, most of the lower ground which never affect to the flood are now affected. Especially, at the residential area. Some other areas are also affected which never affected with the flood before are now affected. To protect the flood water most of the people are using the sandbag to put surrounding to their home and kitchen to stop the water to enter their homes. If the heavy rains continue coming for 2 to 3 days water can reach up to 150 mm in the kitchen floor and 300 mm to 400 mm on the ground floor. Some houses are having problem with their blockage toilet units facilities. There are other issue of concerns is about the underground infrastructure such as the electricity cable and the toilet vacuum facility.</p> <p>We are at the southern beaches on the land are the lowest ground floor where the flood could get exist very quickly as well as the beach area itself also low the sea water can get to the land if the wind speed coming from the south and high tides. The sandbag hasn't been established to the southern area.</p> <p>If the Commonwealth, the Shire of Cocos (Keeling), Water Corporation and the community can work together to determine these problems and take action as quickly as possible to avoid from the risk to protect the islands, the community, the important items and the valuable assets would be very helpful.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment, will also be undertaken.</p>
12	[name and detail removed]. On behalf of our Committee, we would like to officially request an extension on the 30th April 2025 deadline for public comment on the report just released. We feel the timeframe allocated is simply too short for the consultation of our 42+ members (local operators) and external parties, that will enable us to form an opinion to submit. The document is extensive and given the 3+ year timeline it took for it to be released, we would appreciate the courtesy of at least an additional three months to review in full, and provide feedback.	<p>It is acknowledged that the document is complex in nature and that reviewing the document as a non-technical person may be challenging. All attempts to provide the document in simple terms have been made, although it is recognised that some translation challenges may remain.</p> <p>This submission was made early in the process and a three-month extension was granted. Notwithstanding, recognising the unique scenario of CKI, the submission timeframe exceeded mainland submission periods by approximately four months.</p>
13	I echo the sentiments from others, that the community has not been provided with sufficient time to respond to the DRAFT CHRMAP and kindly request an extension for at least another 6 months (30 October 2025). This seems reasonable given the period of time provided to various government departments (State and Federal) which is shown in the version control table included within the document.	<p>It is acknowledged that the document is complex in nature and that reviewing the document as a non-technical person may be challenging. All attempts to provide the document in simple terms have been made, although it is recognised that some translation challenges may remain.</p> <p>This submission was made early in the process and a three-month extension was granted. Notwithstanding, recognising the unique scenario of CKI, the submission timeframe exceeded mainland submission periods by approximately four months.</p>
	We, the community, require time to formulate an equally scientific and human response to what is, ultimately, a proposal to uproot a culture that has existed here for almost 200 years - notably, a community and culture that pre-dates Australian Federation.	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p>

#	Submission	Response
13 (cont'd)	There are challenges to the climate change science presented in the CHRMAP, views from coastal engineering experts, investigations into coral atoll geology (hard rock and reef growth)	<p>Noted. The challenges associated with coral atolls are identified in the CHRMAP. The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p>
	and human rights legalities that all need to be explored before this “roadmap” can or should be endorsed.	<p>Noted. Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p>
14	I am writing to formally object to the proposed Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) currently under consideration. While I acknowledge the importance of proactive coastal management in the face of environmental change, I believe the current version of the plan is flawed in several key areas and should be rejected or substantially revised.	<p>Noted - Response to points included below.</p>
	<p>1. Lack of Community Consultation and Transparency</p> <p>The plan appears to have been developed with limited genuine community consultation. Public input has been minimal, and the concerns raised by residents, including property owners and traditional land users, do not appear to have been adequately incorporated. This undermines community trust and does not reflect collaborative governance.</p>	<p>A CHRMAP process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>The Shire agreed in 2016 to the Australian Government leading the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP based on this request. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet planning guidance and best practice. The Shire was consistently invited to participate and was actively involved in each consultation.</p> <p>During five trips to CKI, the project team has invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. The Community Reference Group and Elders Group (PIPC) were also directly presented with information. These engagement activities significantly exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI’s unique remoteness and cultural factors. The possibility of retreat was communicated at the very first community engagement sessions in 2022 and has been accessible in publicly available documents since that time. Stakeholders were presented this information on multiple occasions.</p>
	<p>2. Inadequate Scientific Studies</p> <p>The plan relies heavily on predictive modelling that projects extreme scenarios without sufficiently balancing more moderate or short-term forecasts. These assumptions may lead to premature and potentially unnecessary restrictions on land use, which could adversely affect local property values and community development.</p>	<p>The scope and intent of SPP 2.6 is clearly defined in the guidelines. Modelling is dominated by S3 as it is a significant factor in long-term prediction models.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies short-term actions to verify assumptions made in developing longer-term pathways. It also recommends many immediate- and short-term measures to improve living conditions and address climate-change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>The first objective of CHRMAP engagement is to 'Inform the community and stakeholders about the extent of potential coastal hazards and the adaptation strategies available to respond to those hazards'. In progressing and then releasing this CHRMAP, the Australian Government is meeting this objective.</p> <p>Beyond this report, complying with coastal hazard planning requirements will require continual feedback and collaboration between all parties to develop available response pathways.</p>

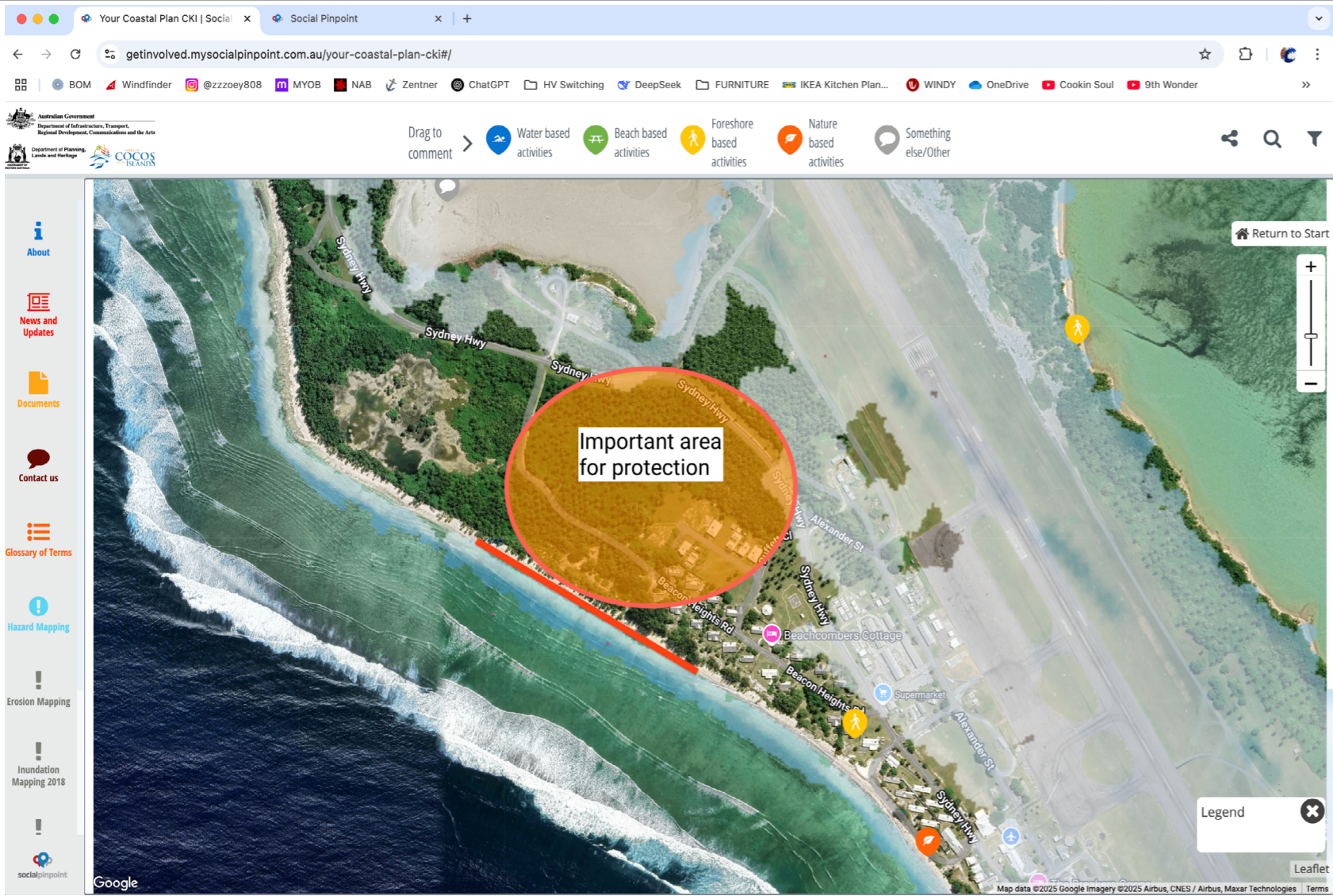
Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
14 (cont'd)	<p>3. Negative Impact on Property Rights and Economic Viability</p> <p>The plan proposes measures, including potential retreat zones or development limitations, that would severely impact property rights without fair compensation or clear legal justification. The resulting uncertainty may deter investment and threaten the long-term viability of coastal communities.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is the basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies paths for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making pathway.</p>
	<p>4. Insufficient Consideration of Alternative Adaptation Strategies</p> <p>The plan does not give due weight to practical alternatives such as engineered protections (e.g., seawalls, dune reinforcement, drainage), managed maintenance, or staged response approaches. A more flexible, evidence-based adaptation strategy would allow time for innovation and adjustment without drastic impacts. Retreat should be the last and least favourable solution for the community.</p>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is not designed to assess how to relocate a community. It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for over several timeframes. The CHRMAP sets the basis for ongoing research and study.</p> <p>It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
	<p>5. Cultural and Heritage Values Overlooked</p> <p>The plan does not adequately address the cultural significance of certain coastal areas for the most Indigenous community or long-term residents. Any adaptation plan must be developed with deep respect for these values and in partnership with Traditional Custodians</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>
	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given these concerns, I respectfully request that the current CHRMAP be rejected in its current form. I urge the Commonwealth to return to a process of inclusive community engagement, revise the scientific framework with a balanced approach to risk, and develop an adaptive, staged plan that protects both the environment and the rights of affected communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p>
15	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the recommendations outlined in the recently published Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) report.</p>	<p>Response to points included below.</p>
	<p>As a proud resident of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, I find it deeply distressing that the proposed course of action suggests a long-term managed retreat from Home Island, effectively displacing our community and dismantling our way of life. This is our home, our heritage, and our culture. The Cocos Malay people have lived here for generations, and it is unacceptable that our future is being determined by economic calculations rather than the fundamental right to remain in our ancestral land. The idea of forced relocation undermines our community's sovereignty and threatens our cultural identity.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many options forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>

#	Submission	Response
15 (cont'd)	<p>The government’s justification that protecting Home Island is too costly stands in stark contrast to the substantial investment in upgrading the West Island runway for Defence purposes. If the Australian Government can allocate over half a billion dollars to ensure strategic military operations on West Island, then surely it can afford to invest in the protection of Home Island’s infrastructure. We demand the same level of commitment and financial backing to implement effective coastal defenses, such as seawalls and sandbagging, to safeguard our homes and livelihoods.</p> <p>The CHRMAP acknowledges the cultural and social impact of retreating from Home Island, yet it still prioritizes cost-efficiency over the preservation of a people and their history. The government must recognize that relocating an entire community is not merely a logistical challenge—it is a violation of our fundamental rights. We call for immediate action to explore alternative solutions, including but not limited to:</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project will enhance the resilience and functionality of the airfield and wharf for all users, including the community. This project does not limit future options for the CKI community or decision-makers.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p> <p>The Australian Government is committed to continued engagement with the community in developing and delivering response options on this issue. Initial responses include urgent coastal protection works, and further research has been funded.</p>
	<p>1.Increased funding for coastal protection measures – Constructing robust seawalls, reinforcing existing defenses, and expanding sandbagging efforts to mitigate the effects of rising sea levels.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
	<p>2.Comprehensive consultation and transparency – Genuine community engagement, ensuring that our voices and concerns are heard and that decisions are not imposed upon us.</p>	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI’s unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
15 (cont'd)	<p>3. Equitable investment in Home Island – If millions can be spent on military infrastructure, then adequate funding must be allocated to secure the future of the Cocos Malay community.</p>	<p>The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project will enhance the resilience and functionality of the airfield and wharf for all users, including the community. This project does not limit future options for the CKI community or decision-makers.</p> <p>The Australian Government is committed to continued engagement with the community in developing and delivering response options on this issue. Initial responses include urgent coastal protection works, and further research has been funded.</p>
	<p>We will not stand by and allow our home to be abandoned due to political and economic convenience. The Australian Government has a duty to protect its citizens, and that duty must extend to those of us who have lived in and sustained this island for generations. I urge you to reconsider the CHRMAP recommendations and commit to a solution that upholds our right to remain on Home Island with the necessary protections in place. We demand action, not displacement.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Noted. Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p>
16	<p>The Cocos Malays voted to join Australia. We have a moral obligation to protect their home. The Cocos Islands are also an important military asset for Australia and its allies, providing a potential landing point for aircraft transiting the Indian ocean. A retreat from Home and/or West Islands is most undesirable.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p>

#	Submission	Response
17	<p>Please ensure that the residential area at the northern part of town is given protection, as the shoreline is increasingly being eroded. Many comments have been made about other areas on West Island, but this area is extremely important. It is important that this northern area is protected as it contains many residential houses.</p> <p>A very significant issue is that it also contains the only FUTURE site for further land release and development at Cocos. Please note this area has been flagged as the area that would be used to house all Home Islanders in the future if that community is relocated to West Island. In the short-term it is also the site for the Fulton Hogan runway project Accommodation Camp. Note this is also the site of the very old seawall structures that extended outwards from the beach, showing that the area has eroded previously. The area also joins up to the Bottle Dump area which is very low lying and historically was part of the passage between the islands before they joined. See attached image for the area. Please make sure this area is studied and treated correctly.</p>  <p>The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL 'getinvolved.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/your-coastal-plan-cki/'. The map interface includes a sidebar with navigation options like 'About', 'News and Updates', 'Documents', 'Contact us', 'Glossary of Terms', 'Hazard Mapping', 'Erosion Mapping', and 'Inundation Mapping 2018'. The map itself shows a coastal town with roads labeled 'Sydney Hwy', 'Beacon Heights Rd', and 'Alexander St'. A red circle highlights a specific area with the text 'Important area for protection'. The map also features various activity icons like 'Water based activities', 'Beach based activities', 'Foreshore based activities', and 'Nature based activities'.</p>	<p>Noted. The CHRMAP expressly recommends levees and seawalls in this location over time, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies which are underway.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>I would like to start by thanking [project team reference - names removed] for compiling a thorough and compelling read. The Draft CHRMAP report is a stark reminder that, without a universally shared acknowledgment and response to climate change, parts of the world (including ours) could be irrevocably changed. And I say, "could be". Without the benefit of foresight, it is difficult to know what our island home will look like in 20-50-100 years' time. There is plenty of scientific assertions contained within the CHRMAP report which indicates our ability to live and work here will be terminally compromised due to sea level rise, inundation and erosion. While this could well be true, there could also be a reasonable argument to suggest the underestimated resilience of a coral atoll like ours.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is the basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The challenges associated with coral atolls are identified in the CHRMAP.</p>
18	<p>We have not been accorded the time to argue the science, predict the future, debate "1 in 100 year storms" or question whether sea level rise will be 5mm or 50mm, but I do take issue with the conclusion drawn from the report: "Retreat". If this is to be the first in a series of reports that ultimately go on to form the backbone of planning for the islands, it seems sadly fatalistic. It gives those in (and with the) authority the justification to "do nothing". The "retreat" conclusion of this report enables present and future governments to limit any viable interventions on the basis that, the net result will be unchanged – Cocos will be under water.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term</p>

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18 (cont'd)	<p>My argument is that we are fortunate, Cocos has all the materials it needs to keep its "head above water" and perhaps these local solutions haven't been fully explored before the "retreat" conclusion was made. We have plenty of sand, it hasn't disappeared, it's just moved and more made each year. Now we just need to move it to where we need it – starting with Home Island.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term</p>
	<p>While the Draft CHRMAP is very scientific and detail-driven and my submission is the opposite, there are a few assumptions or assertions that can be easily identified as flawed.</p> <p>1. The consultants advised the community that the groynes on West Island washed away naturally. This is untrue. They were deliberately removed by the Commonwealth, who cited "environmental" reasons. It begs the question, if they were still there, would West Island have the problem/s we have now?</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p>
	<p>2. The technical specialists advised that West Island had both inundation and erosion and groynes could not possibly address both. On the lagoon side of the island we have inundation and on the other we have erosion, they don't happen at the same place nor the same time. Groynes can treat one and bunding the other. These are separate and can be treated as such.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term</p>
	<p>3. We were told "groynes are not effective". There is extensive and well researched evidence which says otherwise, particularly for long shore drift.</p>	<p>Information provided about the groynes in recent months will be reviewed to seek confirmation and accuracy. The CHRMAP will be reviewed as required. Assessment of groynes in the local coastal environment for long-term management has suggested that they will be ineffective in the long-term. Groynes can continue to be considered, with decisions made based on adequate scientific analysis.</p>

#	Submission	Response
18 (cont'd)	<p>4. We were told "inundation with sea water is inevitable". This is very unlikely. In storm situations, Home Island floods with rainwater. Building up Home Island with dredge sand can "harden" the Kampong to both flooding and inundation.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Scientific modelling shows that the sea level is rising as predicted, increasing the risk of seawater inundation. This is a model built on data and not a certainty.</p> <p>The CHRMAP supports decision-makers to consider and prepare for these risks. It identifies many short-term measures to address current climate-change impacts, including drainage and water management studies to better understand the likely effects of combined rainfall flooding and seawater inundation.</p>
	<p>5. While it might not be the function of the CHRMAP to map out what "retreat" would mean, this hasn't been explored sociologically or economically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sociologically, it would mean the end of an ethnic micro community. It is hard to see how it could be moved elsewhere. There would be no place in Australia where 600+ people could be housed so its unique culture could be maintained.</li> <li>- Economically, how do we even pay for such a move? How would the community be housed? Who will do the work to keep the runway operational? How could the on-island workers be housed, when no houses are available on West Island now (2025)? Even if there were houses on West Island available, it is not practically suited to a community so sociologically and economically integrated with the sea.</li> </ul>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>Planning for climate change responses as complex as those required on CKI will depend on long-term and deep collaboration between all levels of government. The Australian Government is keen to continue engaging to develop these responses.</p> <p>This is linked to responses regarding the use of a CHRMAP as a planning document for informing all stakeholders, which notes the purpose of the CHRMAP and the opportunity for all parties to work together with the same information, to enable the widest range of future choices.</p>
	<p>6. "Seawater will reach inland as far as indicated (map)". No, it won't. Inundation is not a tidal wave. It cannot travel at any great speed. I do not know what speed it would travel, but it only has the last hour of a high tide to cross ground before the tide turns. Home Island would be the most prone, but even then, freshwater flooding has already been higher than the inundation levels indicated by CHRMAP.</p>	<p>Scientific modelling shows that the sea level is rising as predicted, increasing the risk of seawater inundation. This is a model built on data and not a certainty.</p> <p>The CHRMAP supports decision-makers to consider and prepare for these risks. It identifies many short-term measures to address current climate-change impacts, including drainage and water management studies to better understand the likely effects of combined rainfall flooding and seawater inundation.</p>
	<p>I don't mention these to pick holes, but to bring attention to local knowledge and insight that seems to be lacking in the report. The report confirms community consultations took place, but I can't see where this has been captured in its pages. Arguably (or argumentatively?), it was a 'tick the box' process.</p>	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>Process, procedures and engineering have the answers to provide resilience and livability for Cocos. We cannot directly contradict the CHRMAP report but there are big gaps in the logic process and procedures set out. The biggest is to offer a conclusion of "retreat". I am sure the report would be just as effective without offering any conclusion, particularly one so dire. And. We have time. A "retreat" of the Kampong on Home Island would be a great injustice. The community has done little, if anything, that would be detrimental to their own environment. While the global community has sold carbon fuels at a great rate knowing more and more certainly the impact that will come from their use.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
18 (cont'd)	<p>Many people are already bearing the direct costs of climate change. While generally unpredictable, it seems the rural and remote communities bear much of the brunt. With homes and businesses flooded, destroyed by wind, fire or weather. Though we, as Australians, are proud of surviving in a country of "drought and flooding rain", these natural aspects do not need any help from the changing weather.</p> <p>What is required is sensible generational and on-going hardening responses to the upcoming challenges. Many such solutions have been suggested for Cocos. I'm sure other communities would have sensible responses too.</p> <p>I am more and more of the belief that small rural and regional communities on flood plains, grasslands, forests and islands of Australia have been let down. We have the moral fibre, work ethic and community that can survive this and other challenges. We might need a hand from time to time but maybe let us have a go, work it out so we address the actual practical issues experienced on the ground – by the people and for the people. I am past confident the community will endure.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
19	<p>The thing that strikes me the most is the overall apparent reluctance by the commonwealth to finance long-term protection measures on the islands. As shown here the commonwealth appears more committed to providing aid to other similarly affected islands than they are to preserving Cocos islands and allowing the occupants to live here as long as possible. Here is an example:</p> <p>Australia is a significant donor to Kiribati, providing substantial development assistance to address the country's unique challenges. Australia's aid focuses on strengthening climate and disaster resilience, promoting economic growth, and improving access to essential services like water and sanitation.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The Australian Government is committed to supporting Pacific Islands' national responses to climate change, including contributing to their adaptation action. The Government is also taking action to better understand Australia's own climate risks, increase our resilience and support adaptation efforts across the nation, including in CKI.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
19 (cont'd)	<p>The focus seems to be on retreat citing the financial cost as a reason. My feeling as a landowner and resident of the islands spanning a period of 40 years that the commonwealth would be happy to see Private sector residents and the Cocos Malay community removed from the islands so that they are free to pursue their military agenda on what is a strategic location.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p> <p>The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project will deliver a more resilient airfield and associated facilities for all users. The upgrades will deliver significant benefits to both daily operations and airfield resilience against weather events. The Commonwealth is committed to continued engagement with the community in developing and delivering response options on this issue.</p>
	<p>In a nutshell I would like to see more commitment to the people of Cocos islands.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone’s safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies which are underway.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p>
	<p>I would like to see a more permanent seawall along William Keeling Crescent</p>	<p>Noted. This is a recommendation of the draft CHRMAP.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
20	As landowners on West Island, we respectfully request to be kept informed of any updates, notices, or recommendations that may affect the certificates of title in relation to climate change impacts, particularly rising sea levels. We are concerned about the potential implications that such notations or restrictions could have on property use and development. Specifically, we seek clarification on whether current or future landowners might face limitations on building permissions and whether these restrictions could significantly affect the market value of the property.	Noted. Ongoing communication will occur and details of planning implications will be analysed and considered through development of a new Local Planning Scheme, which is currently recommended in the draft CHRMAP.
	Should such limitations adversely impact the saleability or value of our land, we would appreciate understanding whether the government intends to offer compensation or other forms of support to affected property owners. Transparent communication and early engagement with stakeholders will be crucial in managing the economic and personal implications of these climate-related changes.	Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.
	Statement Regarding Memorial Placement – Scout Park, West Island [detail removed] we wish to express our strong desire to be consulted on any future decisions that may affect the location or positioning of the chair, particularly in relation to changes arising from rising sea levels or public space planning. We ask that any potential relocation or adjustments to public areas on West Island be approached with transparency and sensitivity, and that we are included in the consultation process to ensure the memorial continues to honour our son in a respectful way.	Noted. Ongoing considerations regarding the location will occur in consultation with the community,
21	The CKI shire should be allowed to create our own CHRMAP. Only then will we have a CHRMAP that will be accepted by residents. Only 87% of our population has had a say on this CHRMAP is to include planned/managed retreat much more community inducement and local school inducement is a MUST!	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able influence the approach at all times.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
21 (cont'd)	<p>Levee is not helping at the Home Island because it would block the boat ramp and will make a swimming pool and collect the rainwater. We need to be able to access to the boat ramps to catch fish because they live off fish.</p> <p>Get the local students into the groundwater because it's their home.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Seawalls on Home Island will block our access to the beach, they are unnecessary.</p> <p>There is no erosion on Home Island and we do not have inundation, because our atoll rises from deep water, there is no reef shelf of cause tsunamis. The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami did not breach our islands at all.</p>	<p>The Australian Government acknowledges the interest from the community in being involved in citizen science programs. These are being assessed currently to ensure the most suitable activities. This will link to longer term coastal hazard observations and shorter-term drainage studies.</p>
	<p>Levees and seawalls will not work on Home Island they will trap water and flood the settlement. Home Island is home to the Cocos Malay people who have a strong Muslim faith. They have lived for decades on Home Island and do not want to move to West Island.</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
22	<p>The CKI Shire should make our own CHRMAP. 8% have been consulted when 90% need to be consulted for the CHRMAP to propose planned or managed retreat</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
22 (cont'd)	If levees are built on home island it will make HI a big pool and even if there drains it will block the boat ramps which is one of their main sources of food. The HI students want to get involved in the groundwater studies	Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.
	Seawall on HI will block the beach and sea walls are for erosion and HI does not suffer from erosion.	The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.
	Leaves will not work it will make a big pool	The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.
23	The CKI shire must be allowed to create our own CHRMAP. Only then will we have a proper map excepted by the residents. We also only have had 8% of the population consulted on the CHRMAP while a 95% percent community consultation had been reached in most other places. So the community must be consulted and the CKI shire must be allowed to create the CHRMAP for Home and West Island.	It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.  In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.  Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.  Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.  While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.  The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.  This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.
	The levees proposed to be placed on Home Island wouldn't work because the rain water will be trapped by the levees and cause further flooding and damage. They also would prevent access to the boat ramps so they can have fish. It is a staple food in their diet and they really heavily on fish. The ground water studies also should involve the students of Home Island and West Island to allow for further data to be collected and they want to participate and help in the studies.	Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.
	Sea walls on Home Island will block access to the ocean. They are also unnecessary as there is no erosion on Home Island and we do not have inundation. This is because our atoll rises form deep water. There is also no reef shelf to cause tsunamis here .We are also not at any tsunami risk as the 2004 Boxing day tsunami did not reach the island at all.	The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.  The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.
	Home island has 500 people while west island has 150 people. The infrastructure on west island cannot meet the needs of the population of Home Island.	Noted.

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24	<p>The CKI Shire should be allowed to create our own CHRMAP only then will have a CHRMAP that will be accepted by residents. Only 87. of our population has had a say on this CHRMAP, when 907. need to be consulted if a CHRMAP is to include planned/managed retreat much more community involvement+ local school</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>Levees are a stupid idea because it can trap rainwater. Levees would cover the boat ramps and stop people from getting fish. Ground water studies- You guys should include local students.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p>
	<p>Seawalls on Home Island will block our access to the beach, they are unnecessary. There is no erosion on home island, and we do not have inundation, because our atoll rises from deep water, there is no reef shelf to cause tsunamis. The 2004 Boxing Day Tsunamis did not breach our islands at all.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Levees and seawalls will not work on home island, they will trap water and flood the settlement. Home island is home to the Cocos Malay people who have strong Muslim faith. They have lived decades on home island + do not want to move to west island</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>

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25	<p>The CKI shire should be allowed to create our own CHRMAP. Only then will we have a CHRMAP that will be accepted by residents. Only 8% of the population has had a say on this CHRMAP when 90% need to have a say if CHRMAP is to include managed retreat.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>The levees are a very bad idea and because it will trap the rain and they cant use the boat ramp which we need to eat fish a main part of our diet and our culture.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p>
	<p>The seawalls will block our access to the beach the seawalls are unnecessary because there is no erosion on home island and no inundation because our atoll rises from deep water so we can't have tsunamis. Even the 2004 Boxing Day tsunamis did not affect us.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Levees and seawalls will not work on home island they will trap water and flood the settlement Home Island is home to the Cocos Malay people who have a strong Muslim faith. They have lived for decades on home island do not want to move to west island.</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>

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26	<p>The CKI Shire should be allowed to create our own CHRMAP. Only then we have a CHRMAP that will be accepted by residents. Only 8% of our population has had a say on this CHRMAP when 90% need to be consulted if a CHRMAP is to include 'planned / managed retreat'. Much more community involvement + local school involvement is a MUST!</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>Levees won't work on Home Island because it will make Home Island a big swimming pool. Boat ramps are essential because Home Islanders live off fish and it is a staple of our diet. Ground water studies – we as local students of Cocos Islands District High School we want to be involved in this groundwater study.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p>
	<p>-Seawalls on Home Island will block our access to the beach, they are unnecessary. There is no erosion on Home Island and we do not have inundation, because our atoll rises from deep water, there is no reef shelf to cause tsunamis. The 2004 boxing day tsunamis did not breach our islands at all.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Levees and seawall will not work on Home Island they will trap water and flood the settlement. Home Island is home to the Cocos Malay people who have a strong Muslim faith they have lived for decades on Home Island and do not want to move to West Island.</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>

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27	<p>The CKI should be allowed to create our own CHRMAP. Only then will we have a CHRMAP that will accept by restarts Only 8% of a population has had a say on this CHRMAP. Than 90% need to be counselled if a CHRMAP is to include planned retreat. Much more community and local school indent is a MUST'.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>levees is an awful idea since it will block the boat ramps and might flood West and Home Island when there is heavy rain. We needed to hunt fish for survival and stable our diets.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p>
	<p>Seawalls on Home Island will block our access to the beach, they are unnecessary. There is no erosion on Home Island and we do not have inundation, because our atoll rises from deep water, there is no reef staff to cause tsunamis. The 2004 boxing day tsunamis; did not breach our islands at all.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Levees and seawalls will not work on Home Island- they will trap water and flood the settlement. Home Island is home to the Cocos malay people who have a strong muslim faith, they have lived for decades on Home Island and do not want to move to West Island.</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	I think it's commendable that the governments are looking into the future and taking climate change seriously. However, far more community involvement needs to happen.	Noted. Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.
	The locals are very aware that half a billion dollars has been committed to improving/raising the airport on West Island and it is a general consensus that the Australian Government is doing that because Cocos is an important military/defense asset/location.	The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project will enhance the resilience and functionality of the airfield and wharf for all users, including the community. This project does not limit future options for the CKI community or decision-makers.  The Australian Government is committed to continued engagement with the community in developing and delivering response options on this issue. Initial responses include urgent coastal protection works, and further research has been funded.
	According to the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Aus will give \$3billion towards the global efforts to deal with climate change issues from 2020-2025 – this includes \$1.3billion in climate finance for the Pacific (Counting Australia's climate finance   Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade). However, no money has been committed to securing the homes of the hundreds of people here that know no other lifestyle. This is their home and as Australian citizens, they deserve that to be protected and maintained. They live simply and cleanly. Their lifestyle is irreplaceable. Australia is providing over \$2.5million over 5y to help the Marshallese implement their Adaptation Plan and another \$3 million for Climate Vulnerability in Water Sector – total of \$5.5million to the Marshall Islands. The Marshallese plan to dredge to build artificial islands(like the Maldives), we're not suggesting that, but how about looking into dredging to build up the existing island – Home Island. Australia has provided \$45million to Tonga for their Climate Change Adaptation strategies. Australia has provided \$98million to Kiribati since 2011 towards their climate adaptation strategies. Surely, we need to spend MORE than this amount on the people of our own nation, afterall, this money, the funds, come from the Australian people's taxes – our money, it should be prioritised for US!	The Australian Government is committed to continued engagement with the community in developing and delivering response options on this issue. Initial responses include urgent coastal protection works, and further research has been funded.  The Australian Government is committed to supporting Pacific Islands' national responses to climate change, including contributing to their adaptation action. The Government is also taking action to better understand Australia's own climate risks, increase our resilience and support adaptation efforts across the nation, including in CKI.
28	Can we look into planting water absorbant plants in the Home Island settlement to assist with the rainwater flooding, like they have done in Jakarta with bamboo? The mass clearing of coconut palms from Home Island has contributed to the groundwater flooding problems endured on Home Island. Replanting coconut palms, which are very water absorbant, would not only help draw water and therefore reduce the flooding issues, but they would also strengthen the island. This is a cost-effective measure that could be implemented immediately.	Planting and revegetation is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP.
	The houses on Home Island are not made of quality materials, so perhaps this is an opportunity to invest in replacing them with houses specifically adapted to the challenges facing Home Island?	Considering building methodologies like raising houses is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP. Notwithstanding, it should be recognised that it is the responsibility of individual property owners to upgrade their own homes. In the case of the CKI, where the Cocos Malay Trust (The Trust) owns the majority of the housing assets, the responsibility for repair and maintenance and upgrades would be the The Trust.
	Apparently, every shire in Australia should have a self-created CHRMAP. However, CKI does not and has not been given an oppportunity to create one. This is unfair and could be interpreted as a deliberate strategy to prevent the CKI residents from having genuine input and ownership of any future processes/ strategies implemented.	It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.  In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.  Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect. There is no nation-wide requirement for a coastal plan. State requirements that apply on CKI do not specify who should prepare the plan, or demand that it be prepared, just that planning should not happen in the absence of a plan if hazards are predicted to be present.

#	Submission	Response
28 (cont'd)	<p>Apparently, if a CHRMAP is to include the strategy of 'planned/managed retreat' it must've consulted 90% of the population. However, only 8% of the CKI population has been consulted and everyone is very strongly against the proposal of a 'planned/managed retreat'.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population. In comparison with other jurisdictions, the overall engagement has been well above industry standard supported by significant investment from the Australian Government as the sole funder of this project.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>Priority should be given to raising the level of Home Island. Using locally sourced (dredged) sand from the lagoon, adding the pulverised glass that is recycled on island to raise the settlement and supporting infrastructure (sewerage, power, water lines etc) needs to happen – similar to what happened in Tuvalu. (see images below) Yes, that is a costly prospect, but it makes sense. When this proposal is investigated, the local CKI shire representatives and local elders must be involved in all stages of the investigation so that it is transparent and the results/findings communicated to all residents so that they understand all aspects and have ownership of the process and decisions moving forward. Tuvalu- Raising land level</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP does identify a multitude of short-term staged responses; investigation of suitable sand sources (or other sources for bolstering the islands) that do not have unforeseen or unintended consequences is one such recommendation, which is explicitly included in the CHRMAP.</p>

#	Submission	Response
28 (cont'd)	<p>[name and detail removed] and have shared my interest in getting the secondary students involved in the monitoring and study of groundwater and flooding to the CHRMAP Project Team, [name removed]. Involving the students would be a great way to engage the community – the students could communicate what they're doing, their findings and the processes involved to the community through the school Facebook page, write articles for the local publication, "The Atoll", attend and speak at community &amp; shire meetings – the opportunities are many.</p> <p>We've had members from the Home Island Malay community come and share their concerns and thoughts about the CHRMAP with us and there's a genuine consensus that the community has not been listened to. Older members of the Malay community feel devalued because they do not feel that they were part of the consultation process when the draft was being put together. Much work needs to be done to engage and work with the community now, going forward, so that the community is invested in the CHRMAP. Employing members of the community to act as liaison people, charging local Malay residents with various responsibilities (vegetating and caring for vegetation on dunes, monitoring and recording flooding from rainwater and measuring and recording any inundation, coordinating and dispersing information to keep the community updated and informed) would be a great way to develop community involvement. The proposed levees around that appear on the map of Home Island as 'Immediate (actioned as soon as possible)' are strongly opposed by the Home Island residents. Speaking to the CHRMAP Project Team, they have voiced concerns about inundation, however, even during the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami that devastated many parts of Indonesia, our nearest geographical neighbour, no sea water washed up onto land of either Home Island or West Island. The locals that were living on island at that time report that the water became murky and a strong current surge washed up on the shore, but the ocean did not inundate the land at all. Knowing this, it is understandable that the local people do not understand the reasoning behind proposing levees. Levees would prevent the rainwater that can flood the Home Island settlement in heavy, prolonged rains, from draining away.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
28 (cont'd)	<p>2. The short-term physical structures proposed (as detailed on p13 of the CHRMAP Summary document) are limited to 'strategic vegetation planting and dune care'. Again, it would be ideal for the community and students to be involved in this process, as then they could be responsible for the ongoing care and monitoring of this vegetation. No local people that we have spoken to have been consulted by CHRMAP representatives about suitable vegetation, or species that may have once thrived on the islands that are not here today. This would be a good idea, as using endemic species would make more sense and be more successful.</p> <p>The CHRMAP also states that a short-term strategy would be to move Oceania House. The students asked their families and community members if Oceania House was a priority for the Malay community and they said no it wasn't. Everyone we spoke to said they'd be really disappointed if money was wasted on moving Oceania House, they'd prefer to see that money spent on protecting/preserving/adapting houses the Malay families occupy – raising the houses up, raising the level of Home Island by building it up with sand, aggregate etc.</p> <p>Another physical protection structure proposed are the Seawalls on the western side of Home Island. Again, the local people are opposed to this proposal as they all rely heavily on fish as a staple in their diet and the seawall would block their access to the boat ramps in the lagoon, therefore preventing them from being able to feed their families.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p>
	<p>The medium and longer term physical protection structures are again the levees and seawalls and alternatives need to be looked at. It says the road is to be raised, the houses need to be raised or rainwater will run off the road into them. The levees are effectively putting the Home Island settlement in a dam.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>

#	Submission	Response
29	<p>The CKI Shire should be allowed to make our own CHRMAP that the residents will actually get to have input in instead of the Government just handing us a plan and saying they put our input when they don't actually listen to us. Only 8% of our population had a say on this CHRMAP when 90% need to be consulted if a CHRMAP is to include 'planned/managed retreat'. Much more community involvement and local school involvement is a must and will be much appreciated!</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
	<p>Levees will not work on Home Island as it will only trap the water inside turning it into a big swimming pool. It also will block access to the boat ramp. Fish and seafood are staple in our diet. We, local students, want to be involved in the groundwater studies. Scientist won't always be here when it is raining and flooding while we live here and can provide the information that is needed.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Seawalls will block our access to the beach on Home Island. They are unnecessary as the erosion and inundation on Home Island is not as bad as the CHRMAP claims. As our atoll rises from deep water, there is no reef shelf to cause tsunamis. The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami did not affect us and reach our islands at all.</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
	<p>Levees and seawalls will not work on Home Island as they will trap rainwater, flooding the settlement. Home Island is home to the Cocos Malay People who have a strong Muslim faith. They have lived on Home Island for decades and do not have any plan to move to West Island.</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>Sea walls will block access to the beach. There is no erosion on Home Island we don't need seawalls. There is no reef shelf to cause tsunamis. The 2004 boxing day tsunami did not breach our island at all.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
30	<p>The shire should be aloud to make their own CHRMAP. Only then we will have a CHRMAP that residents will like and follow only 8% of the Cocos Malay people have had a say and that information was from the mayor of Cocos.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>I really care about my friends that live here on the island and I think that the levees will make inundation really just worse.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Levees is a dumb idea because it will make Home Island like a swimming pool by trapping the water in and trap the Home Islanders in the land and will block the boat ramps and there wont be anyway to get food over there. We should be involved in groundwater studies at least the Home Islanders should because they live there. They will record the rainwater and inundation.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>We hate the idea of levees it will keep water in. They have never needed levees and never will. It will make it way worse.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Levee and seawall protection around settlement Levees and seawalls will not work on Home Island they will trap water in that will flood the settlement. The island is home to my friends the Cocos Malay people who have a very strong connection with the island I have I seen it with my own eyes they do not want to leave Home Island let a lone the atoll.</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>

#	Submission	Response
31	<p>I am a [details removed]. I have called these islands home for 9 years, and I have some concerns about how the CHRMAP is being planned, like how there has not been enough discussion with the Cocos community and there is no evidence in the CHRMAP of community consultation shown, so we don't know if our voices have been heard. We have asked to participate in the groundwater monitoring program but haven't received any info. There has been only 8% of consultation with community members, you need 95% for a planned/managed retreat strategy to be included in the CHRMAP.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
	<p>Some of the actions planned, especially on Home Island I'm concerned about, like how the levees will trap water when it rains and I'm suspecting there has been a misunderstanding about how the water is flooding on Home Island. When the floods occur on Home Island which are extremely rare it's from excessive rain and rising water lenses, not ocean water coming in. Levees are inadequate for Home Island but if you are putting them in at least make a draining method Not only because of water entrapment but also because Home Island lifestyle will be affected by the seawall on the eastern foreshore because of the limited boat ramp access.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Methods like planting trees to suck up the excess water.</p>	<p>Planting and revegetation is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP.</p>
	<p>As for West Island the water is eroding the land on the ocean side and so seawalls are needed but everything else seems alright.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

#	Submission	Response
31 (cont'd)	Every shire of Australia has a CHRMAP except for ours. Its underdeveloped and we are the people suffering the most!	<p>Note that the assertion in this submission is incorrect. There is no nation-wide requirement for a coastal plan. State requirements that apply on CKI do not specify who should prepare the plan, or demand that it be prepared, just that planning should not happen in the absence of a plan if hazards are predicted to be present.</p> <p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p>
	Planned/managed retreat is unacceptable and unrealistic, locals will not leave the islands unless bribed with lots of money. Instead build up Home Island with sand because there is plenty of it.	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP does identify a multitude of short-term staged responses; investigation of suitable sand sources (or other sources for bolstering the islands) that do not have unforeseen or unintended consequences is one such recommendation, which is explicitly included in the CHRMAP.</p>
	Australia has provided 45 million to Kiribati to help with exactly the same problems why not its own country.	<p>The Australian Government is committed to supporting Pacific Islands' national responses to climate change, including contributing to their adaptation action. The Government is also taking action to better understand Australia's own climate crisis, increase our resilience and support adaptation efforts across the nation, including in CKI.</p>
32	Planned and managed retreat is unacceptable and unrealistic. Locals will not leave their home. We have two different cultures, Home Island Cocos Malay with a strong Islamic faith and West Island with a western culture and we would like to keep it this way. The lifestyle here is priceless and can't be replaced.	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many paths forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>
	We have plenty of sand that could build up Home Island and could use the crushed glass that gets recycled here, that would protect it from flooding.	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP does identify a multitude of short-term staged responses; investigation of suitable sand sources (or other sources for bolstering the islands) that do not have unforeseen or unintended consequences is one such recommendation, which is explicitly included in the CHRMAP.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>Inundation doesn't occur on Home Island during bad cyclones, only small temporary puddles.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
32 (cont'd)	<p>If a CHRMAP includes 'managed retreat.' 90% of the population must be consulted, but only 8% of our population has been consulted with the current CHRMAP.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>In other countries they have looked at mangroves, raising houses and building up islands with sand. We believe that mangroves could really benefit the island, stabilising the shoreline. Raising houses on Home Island would make them more secure and prone to cyclones and flooding. Building up the island with sand would provide a more stable barrier. Another thing I would like to address is that coconut trees absorb a lot of rain and moisture and could be the solution or the flooding.</p>	<p>Planting and revegetation is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP. Considering building methodologies like raising houses is also a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>Every shire in Australia has a self-created CHRMAP, we feel this is unfair and needs to be addressed. We believe it is not up to process; we would like the opportunity to make our own CHRMAP and have our own consultation period.</p>	<p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect. There is no nation-wide requirement for a coastal plan. State requirements that apply on CKI do not specify who should prepare the plan, or demand that it be prepared, just that planning should not happen in the absence of a plan if hazards are predicted to be present.</p> <p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p>
32 (cont'd)	<p>There has not been enough discussion with the Cocos community members. There has been no evidence of the community voice or input that has been published, so we don't know if we've been taken seriously or been listened to. The secondary students of the Cocos Islands have asked to participate in the groundwater and flooding studies but haven't received any information about it. The Australian Government has supported many island nations with the rising sea levels, giving \$98 million to Kiribati, \$45 million to Tonga, and 5.5million to the Marshal islands too. Why not support their own citizens and help with their own peoples' lifestyles?</p>	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the Government is committed to engagement and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p>
	<p>The idea of a seawall along Home Island foreshore is honestly a bad idea, it would restrict access to the boat ramps, changing our lifestyle. I would also like to address how much money has been spent on the runaway instead of protecting our island, half 1 billion dollars, what about protecting our lifestyles! The idea of moving Oceania House isn't important and should be abandoned, yes Oceania House has history, but we care more about spending money on protecting our island from sinking instead of Oceania House. The houses on Home Island are not made up of flooding and cyclone-standard materials, raising them could be a good alternative. Also, putting plants on roofs like they do in Jakarta could be a solution for absorbing rain and moisture.</p>	<p>This is an opportunity to bring the community and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p>
	<p>The idea of putting levees around Home Island has problems the rainwater will fill up the village, we would need drainage holes, How's the water going to drain away? The ocean is not flooding the island, it's the rainwater! Instead of caging in Home Island we can look at building up Home Island!</p>	<p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
	Planned / managed retreat – unacceptable + unrealistic. Locals will not leave our home.	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many paths forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>
33	Built up Home Island with sand, local sand – plenty of it. Add the crushed glass from glass recycle on island on it. Building up on Home Island with sand, glass etc will protect it from flooding.	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP does identify a multitude of short-term staged responses; investigation of suitable sand sources (or other sources for bolstering the islands) that do not have unforeseen or unintended consequences is one such recommendation, which is explicitly included in the CHRMAP.</p>
	Inundation doesn't occur on Home Island – during bad cyclones small puddles temporarily.	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>

#	Submission	Response
33 (cont'd)	<p>Apparently, every shire in Australia should have a self-created CHRMAP. However, Cocos Keeling Island does not and has not been given the opportunity to create one like every other Australian shire. Only then will the local Cocos Keeling Island people feel valued and listened to and support. If a CHRMAP includes "managed retreat", 90% of the population MUST be consulted, but only 8% of our population has been consulted with the current CHRMAP.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>Both the community and the Shire want more investigation before doing anything. They are also discussing to push back for the retreat.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is the basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
	<p>If the coconuts tree wasn't chopped down from the cricket oval then it would help and absorb the water even more so, more coconuts tree need to be planted absorb the water and decrease the flooding.</p>	<p>Planting and revegetation is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
33 (cont'd)	<p>There has not been enough discussion with the cocos community members. No evidence of community voice or input has been publishing, so we don't know that we've been taken seriously/listened to.</p> <p>- Secondary students have asked to participate in the groundwater/flooding studies but have not received any information. Levees are bad idea on HI – It will trap water in the village – It will cut off our access to the boat ramps and beach.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
	<p>3. I think levees and seawall is a bad idea because it will cut off our access to the boat ramp. Lots of attention and money to protect runway – what about protecting our lifestyle? I think we should Leave Oceania house and use the money to lift the local's houses because our houses are more important whereas the Oceania house is not important to our culture.</p>	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p>
	<p>4. Putting levees all around the village will make the village drown because the levees don't have holes. If the Island gets flooded, then we will need to build more drainage to drain out the water. Also, the levees are made for waves, so it is unnecessary because we get floods from rain not wave and levees is made for wave. We will also need to access the boat ramps every day to go fishing because we eat fish everyday.</p>	<p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
34	<p>Planned and manage retreat is unacceptable and is unrealistic. Locals will not leave their home.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many paths forward. The Australian Government is committed to ongoing dialogue with the community to ensure cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>
	<p>Firsly, the Government does not have any real information about the Cocos Islands. All what is said in the CHRMAP summary is how Cocos is in danger. Although it is at risk of sinking, there's no evidence that the Government actually got real data from Cocos and used it in their document. The Government just takes the wrong information about Cocos and puts it into the document without investigating it more or even asking the community for the real facts. [from immediate studies answer]</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p> <p>It should be noted that local data collection was critical for development of the Coastal Vulnerability Study, from which the CHRMAP draws its data inputs, with extensive Cocos Island data collection.</p>

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#	Submission	Response
34 (cont'd)	<p>The idea of a seawall along Home Island foreshore is honestly a bad idea, it would restrict access to the boat ramps, changing our lifestyle. I would also like to address how much money has been spent on the runaway instead of protecting our island, half 1 billion dollars, what about protecting our lifestyles!</p> <p>The idea of moving Oceania House isn't important and should be abandoned, yes Oceania House has history, but we care more about spending money on protecting our island from sinking instead of Oceania House.</p> <p>The houses on Home Island are not made up of flooding and cyclone-standard materials, raising them could be a good alternative. Also, putting plants on roofs like they do in Jakarta could be a solution for absorbing rain and moisture.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
35	<p>3. They are spending 500 million dollars on a useless runaway when they can spend the money to help the people on Cocos. The Government is spending money on islands overseas but are not even helping their own citizens. It is a stupid idea to build levees because all the locals that have lived on Cocos all their lives, live off of the ocean for fish. Getting rid of the boat ramps will impact our lifestyle. The money spent on building levees is useless because floods from cyclones come from rain not the ocean!</p>	<p>The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project will enhance the resilience and functionality of the airfield and wharf for all users, including the community. This project does not limit future options for the CKI community or decision-makers.</p> <p>The Australian Government is committed to continued engagement with the community in developing and delivering response options on this issue. Initial responses include urgent coastal protection works, and further research has been funded.</p>
35	<p>[detail removed], has consulted with the shire president of Cocos Island and we have agreed that there is not enough consultation that has taken place. If a CHRMAP includes 'manage retreat,' 90% of the population MUST be consulted, but only 8% of our population has been consulted with the current CHRMAP. CKI Shire should be given time and support to create their own CHRMAP, like every other Australian Shire. Only then will the local CKI people feel valued and listened to and support and own decisions and strategies implemented.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>Australia's government spent over \$3 billion dollars on other countries, funding and supporting them while doing nothing for Cocos Island other than rising the runway, funding half a billion on the project and using us for their own benefit. Rather than spending the money on rising the runway why don't spend the money to modify the defences of Cocos Islands.</p>	<p>The Australian Government is committed to working with the Pacific to respond to climate change, and contributes substantially to adaptation responses across the Pacific Islands, in the same way that it is contributing substantially to its own territories (including CKI).</p>

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#	Submission	Response
55 (cont'd)	<p>[detail removed] and have my interests about the study of the groundwater and flooding of Cocos Keeling Islands involving the CHRMAP Project Team. We've been studying and discussing about the CHRMAP for 6 months. Secondary students have asked to participate in the groundwater/ flooding studies but have not yet received any info. It will make sense for the students to be involved the studying of the groundwater and flooding because we live on Cocos Islands so we can have access to the information.</p> <p>The CHRMAP Project Team has not have enough input form the community and not enough communication with people that it will affect the most. Involving the students is one way, so they output the information to the community and informed them about what is happening. There is no evidence of community voice or input has been published, so we don't know if we are being taken seriously/ listened to.</p> <p>I'm a Home Island local and building levees around the kampong is a bad idea and ridiculous. Building levees with no type of drainage means that heavy torrential rains would cause major flooding within the walls of the levees. Building levees also means that it will cut off the access to our boat ramps, beaches and foreshores and it would have a big impact to the lifestyle of the Home Island community.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>Moving the Oceania house is and a waste of money as the Home Island community does not care about the Oceania House. It is mainly tourists who visit the Oceania house and look at the history of Cocos Keeling Islands.</p> <p>Building seawalls is a very bad idea because it will change the lifestyle of the locals and would waste a lot of time and money. Rather than building levees and seawalls why not spend the money on Home Island, rising and modifying the defence of Home Island against erosion and flooding from the rain.</p> <p>The government is planning to rise the runway on West Island and funding the project with half a billion dollars. The government of Australia spends over \$3 billion dollars on other countries but why not help its civilians. Why not help its civilians (Cocos Islands) on modifying its defences.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
	<p>Building levees and seawalls around the village would cause more flooding, because there is no drainage in a seawall, so what's the point on building levees and seawalls and would make Home Island a dam. The CHRMAP says that we get flooded due to inundation from water coming on land, the CHRMAP Project Team needs to do more research on flooding on Cocos Islands. In a cyclone we don't get water coming up on land instead the flooding is due to rainwater. Building levees also would cause unavailability to the ramps and the diet of the local consists of fish and how would people get to work if the ferry is not working. The people in mainland wouldn't understand how this CHRMAP Project will have a huge impact on us locals and the people who has lived all their lives at Cocos Islands. This will change the lifestyle of us Cocos Islanders.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>

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#	Submission	Response
36	<p>Apparently, all Shire in Australia create they own CHARMAP. I believe the Shire of CKI does not have their own CHRMAP. This is not fair, only when we have been given the opportunity and support to create our own CHRMAP will the local CKI people feel valued and listen to and being supported at their decisions and strategies. If a CHRMAP includes 'managed retreat' 90 percent of the population must be consulted, but only 8 percent of our population has been consulted with the current CHRMAP.</p> <p>I want to see the Australian government include more of the Cocos community in the consultation process and include in improving the CHRMAP.</p>	<p>Note that the assertion in the submission is incorrect (minimum percentage of engagement if retreat is recommended), as are the percentages stated relating to engagement percentages achieved. There is no specified minimum standard of engagement across the population.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p>

#	Submission	Response
36 (cont'd)	<p>There has been not enough discussion with Cocos community members. No evidence of community voice or input has been published, so we don't know that we have been taken seriously or listened to. Secondary students have asked to participate in the ground water flooding studies but have not received info.</p> <p>Levees are a bad idea to put on Home Island, how are we supposed to go to the boat ramps and drop in our boat?. If the CHRMAP group was to build a levee and surround the whole settlement how are workers and the community supposed to cross the levee to go to work or if they have to get on the ferry. Fish is a staple to Cocos Malays' diet, we must fish each day, which means we need access to the boat ramps on the foreshore so we can feed our families.</p>	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p>
	<p>2. The CHRMAP crew is thinking of planting more vegetation around the sand dunes, which is good it can help by making the sand stronger and harder. The CHRMAP group can get local and school students to help on planting or putting more sand on the dunes. The Oceania House is thinking to be moved closer to the settlement, which will remove all the place for kids to play. This can make a very big impact on the island which is why it is very dumb for them to do. It will be a waste of money and time they are thinking of putting a sea wall on the western side of the island which is more stupid for them to do, because how are the locals supposed to access the boat ramps to launch their boat and fish. Fish is important for our diet and by CHRMAP crew building a sea wall there it will affect us. We as locals rely on sea food to feed us, even when the ship does not arrive we rely on fresh sea food. This is why we can not tolerate a sea wall blocking our boat ramps.</p> <p>The inundation is not a problem on Home Island, it is the flooding from the rain. Planting more coconut trees to replace the coconut tree the were removed when the settlement was build will help to absorb the water and less flooding.</p>	<p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p> <p>Planting and revegetation is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP.</p>

#	Submission	Response
36 (cont'd)	<p>3. The CHRMAP group would like the Home Island to move to West Island which will not happen. In the Cocos Keeling Island, we have two different separate islands, which Home Island is where Malay community is most populated at, which at West Island is more populated with white people, and we would like to keep it that way. At Home Island the culture is strongly Muslim, which at West Island it is mostly western culture. I go to school on both Home and Island students and we have mutual respect. This is because we can live in our own culture and respect the other. Putting all of us on one island would mean huge compromises, that should be avoided if possible.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies paths for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that retreat is the least favourable solution, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
37	<p>There has not been enough discussion with the Cocos community members. No evidence of community voice or input has been published, so we don't know that we've been taken seriously/listened to.</p>	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>Secondary students have asked to participate in the groundwater/flooding studies but, have not received any information.</p>	<p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
	<p>Levees are a bad idea on HI because it will trap water in the village and it will cut off our access to all the boat ramps and beaches.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>
	<p>The houses on Home Island are not made of quality materials, so perhaps this is an opportunity to invest with the shire to upgrade the houses or put stilts under the houses.</p>	<p>Considering building methodologies like raising houses is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP. Notwithstanding, it should be recognised that it is the responsibility of individual property owners to upgrade their own homes. In the case of the CKI, where the Cocos Malay Trust (The Trust) owns the majority of the housing assets, the responsibility for repair and maintenance and upgrades would be the The Trust.</p>

#	Submission	Response
37 (cont'd)	All the attention is on the Runway project and not much attention is focused on protecting our lifestyles.	<p>The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project will enhance the resilience and functionality of the airfield and wharf for all users, including the community. This project does not limit future options for the CKI community or decision-makers.</p> <p>The Australian Government is committed to continued engagement with the community in developing and delivering response options on this issue. Initial responses include urgent coastal protection works, and further research has been funded.</p>
	They can also get all the sand from other sinking islands and add it to HI.	<p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
	They should plant more coconuts on the 2nd oval so it will suck up all the access water from the flooding and the coconut roots strengthen the Island.	Planting and revegetation is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP.
38	Cocos Keeling Island shire should be given time and support to create their own CHRMAP, the pacific island and Australian shires got to make their own CHRMAP so why can't Cocos. If the CHRMAP included managed retreat 90% of the population must be consulted, but only 8% of our population has been consulted with the current CHRMAP.	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	1. The CHRMAP is saying to move the Oceania house, which will cost a fortune of money, why waste that much money when you could use that money to raise houses and buildings. Building sea walls around the island is also a poor idea because the locals on home island love to go fishing its what they eat, cutting of that is not sustainable, so they CHRMAP should use their money on something that will help them not take away something they love and enjoy. Spending 500 million dollars to raise the runway when you could Use that money to raise the houses	The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.
	2.The CHRMAP proposes to commend a plan managed retreat. A plan managed retreat will not be commended because none of the locals on Cocos will not leave the island. One of the teachers said she would leave the island with an appropriate amount of money, but would the government rather pay around 1.8 billion for every single person to retreat to the mainland, or use that money to raise the houses, island etcetera	A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.
	3.The locals also would not like to move over to West Island because they will be leaving their culture and ancestors. On West Islands you can fish but it would be different for them knowing their culture is sinking, so why do you help them live and stay with their culture and ancestors. Moving to West Island is not necessary because if you can build up the runaway you can build up Home Island. The atmosphere is very different compared to Home Island especially when it comes to celebrations. Home Island is a Muslim culture, so they don't drink alcohol compared to West Island where they love to drink.	The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.

#	Submission	Response
	<p>I have consulted with the Shire President, and they have agreed that not nearly enough consultation has taken place.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p>
	<p>The idea of a planned managed retreat is rather ridiculous considering the amount of money spent by the Australian government restoring foreign island nations, and not a culturally significant island in their own country which has played a part in both world wars.</p>	<p>The Australian Government is committed to supporting Pacific Islands' national responses to climate change, including contributing to their adaptation action. The Government is also taking action to better understand Australia's own climate risks, increase our resilience and support adaptation efforts across the nation, including in CKI.</p>
39	<p>There also needs to be a consultation with around 90% of the population for a retreat to take place, and only 8% of Cocos Islands residents have been consulted with.</p>	<p>It is typical for a Local Government to lead preparation of a CHRMAP, but the process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>In light of this, the Shire agreed in 2016 that the Australian Government would lead the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet all planning guidance and best practice. The Shire has been involved consistently and has been able to influence the approach at all times.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>Perhaps new houses that are more suited to minor flooding can be built on Home Island, replacing the old ones.</p>	<p>Considering building methodologies like raising houses is a specific recommendation in the Draft CHRMAP. Notwithstanding, it should be recognised that it is the responsibility of individual property owners to upgrade their own homes. In the case of the CKI, where the Cocos Malay Trust (The Trust) owns the majority of the housing assets, the responsibility for repair and maintenance and upgrades would be the The Trust.</p>

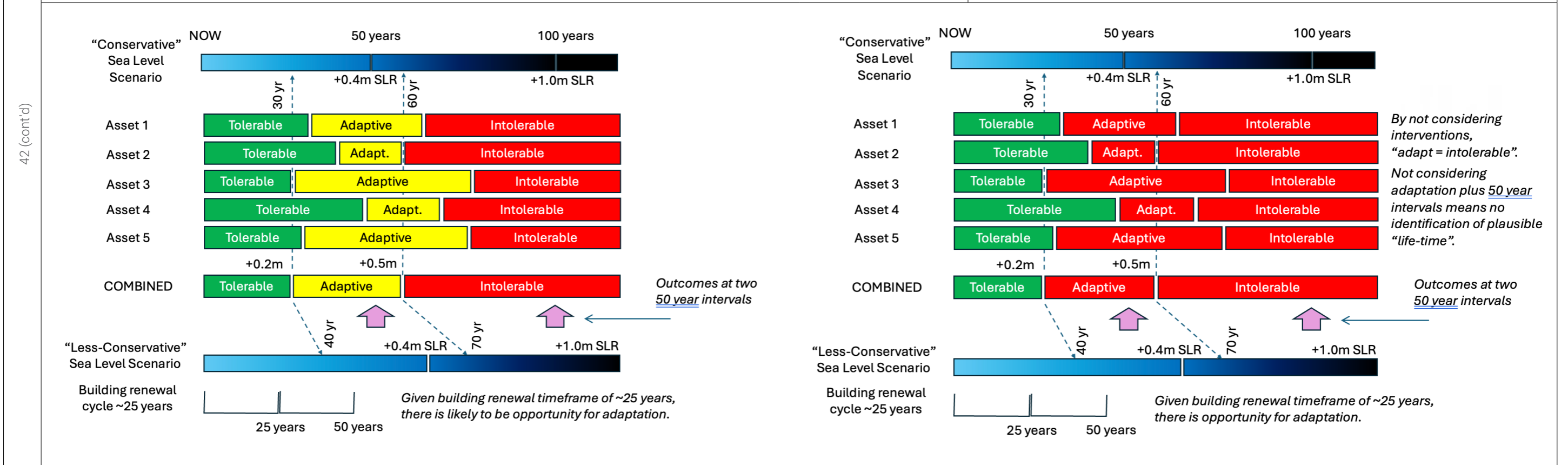
#	Submission	Response
39 (cont'd)	<p>[detail removed], and I believe the team at the CHRMAP hasn't taken the correct measures to factor in the needs of the people that it will affect most. They need to take community input; there has not been enough communication with the people it affects most. No evidence of community voice or input has been published, so we don't know that we've been taken seriously. Secondary students have asked to participate in the groundwater flooding studies but have not received any information. Building levees would destroy local life and trap rainwater in the kampong, causing long-lasting floods that would kill the plants and ruin homes. Fishing is a highly important part of Cocos daily life; the locals rely on fish to eat, and levees would block access to the lagoon. Groynes on the western side of West Island would protect it quite well, as Johnny Clunies-Ross said, bunding on Home Island would provide adequate protection, this could be done using dredge sand and crushed glass which is already produced on-island.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p> <p>Information provided about the groynes in recent months will be reviewed to seek confirmation and accuracy. The CHRMAP will be reviewed as required. Assessment of groynes in the local coastal environment for long-term management has suggested that they will be ineffective in the long-term. Groynes can continue to be considered, with decisions made based on adequate scientific analysis.</p>
	<p>It appears that the entire focus of government funding and attention is on West Island, which seems counter intuitive due to the significantly higher population and number of businesses on Home Island. Is this because of the government facilities on West Island?</p>	<p>Noted. The draft CHRMAP responds to both islands.</p>
	<p>The roads being raised is a good idea, but why not raise more of the island?</p>	<p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p>
	<p>Also, moving Home Islanders onto West Island would be a bad idea, the cultures simply don't mix well. It would require a radical change that would destroy quite a few businesses that build the microeconomy. The children on Home Island also stay out late and would be exposed to West Island nightlife, which isn't a very good idea. West Island is a very alcohol-based community, and Home Island is a Muslim community, it just isn't realistic for them to be combined.</p>	<p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
40	<p>[detail removed], I have called these islands home for 9 years, and I have some concerns about how the CHRMAP is being planned, like how there has not been enough discussion with the Cocos community and there is no evidence in the CHRMAP of community consultation shown, so we don't know if our voices have been heard. We have asked to participate in the groundwater monitoring program but haven't received any info. There has been only 8% of consultation with community members, you need 95% for a planned/managed retreat strategy to be included in the CHRMAP.</p> <p>Some of the actions planned, especially on Home Island I'm concerned about, like how the levees will trap water when it rains and I'm suspecting there has been a misunderstanding about how the water is flooding on Home Island. When the floods occur on Home Island which are extremely rare it's from excessive rain and rising water lenses, not ocean water coming in. Levees are inadequate for Home Island but if you are putting them in at least make a draining method Not only because of water entrapment but also because Home Island lifestyle will be affected by the seawall on the eastern foreshore because of the limited boat ramp access. Methods like planting trees to suck up the excess water. As for West Island the water is eroding the land on the ocean side and so seawalls are needed but everything else seems alright. Every shire of Australia has a CHRMAP except for ours. Its underdeveloped and we are the people suffering the most!</p> <p>Planned/managed retreat is unacceptable and unrealistic, locals will not leave the islands unless bribed with lots of money. Instead build up Home Island with sand because there is plenty of it.</p> <p>Australia has provided 45 million to Kiribati to help with exactly the same problems why not its own country.</p>	<p>Repeat submission/No response.</p>
41	<p>Whilst the bureaucrats will claim that due process has been followed, the CKI population is being let down. They were not involved in the creation of the CHRMAP. To do this properly, local, respected community members of both West Island and Home Island need to be charged and involved in the entire process. This has not happened. Rather than inflict something on the locals, create it with them, that way the outcomes will be much more desirable.</p>	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p>
	<p>Locals must be involved in these studies, (groundwater and flooding). They live here, have access to sites daily so it makes sense. Train them and show them how to do it, that would go a long way to developing trust, engaging the community and lead to local ownership of the CHRMAP. School students want to be involved.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
	<p>Groynes on the west side of West Island would prevent longshore drift. Levees and seawalls are not suitable for Home Island - it doesn't suffer from inundation, so they are an obsolete idea. The locals on Home Island MUST have daily access to the beaches and lagoons to launch their boats because fish is a staple in the local diet.</p>	<p>Information provided about the groynes in recent months will be reviewed to seek confirmation and accuracy. The CHRMAP will be reviewed as required. Assessment of groynes in the local coastal environment for long-term management has suggested that they will be ineffective in the long-term. Groynes can continue to be considered, with decisions made based on adequate scientific analysis.</p>
	<p>Levees and seawalls are not suitable for Home Island - it doesn't suffer from inundation, so they are an obsolete idea. The locals on Home Island MUST have daily access to the beaches and lagoons to launch their boats because fish is a staple in the local diet.</p> <p>The proposal of relocating Home Islanders to West Island is only a very last resort. They are 2 very different and separate communities who coexist because they have their own space. It would be very difficult to accommodate both cultures on the one island.</p>	<p>Many of the CHRMAP's short-term recommendations are to undertake research and study to widen the range of medium- and long-term responses available. If studies show that seawalls and levees will not have negative consequences, they may be considered.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and publishes data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can continue working together to look after the coast. All parties will continue dialogue on relevant topics including erosion, inundation, and suitability of walls and levees.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>The CHRMAP evaluation is dominated by the S3 component of erosion assessment. As noted by RHDHV in the report, this does not represent the way in which coastal change will occur for Cocos Islands. This is extremely significant.</p>	<p>The scope and intent of SPP 2.6 is clearly defined. Modelling is dominated by S3 as noted, as this is a significant factor in long-term prediction models. The CHRMAP does identify a multitude of short-term staged responses, many of which allow for flexibility where coastal change is not a clear predictable pathway as is likely for Cocos Islands.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is the basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p>
42	<p>Inundation hazard can be partially offset by building design guidelines and emergency management, but presently that is not incorporated into planning methodologies – largely because they are about planning, not the built environment. [Incidentally, criteria for decision-making need to be more complex than have been used by RHDHV – planning systems are not yet ready for this].</p>	<p>It is noted that the assertion in the submission is incorrect. The planning system fundamentally guides the built environment and is more than capable of providing for the required building design guidelines. However, the purpose of a CHRMAP is not to deliver design guidelines, it is a document used for strategic planning, and in itself recommends ongoing research and study.</p> <p>In principle, a CHRMAP is intended to identify pathways that may be suitable – attempting to avoid pathways that remove flexibility for different decisions in the future. Accommodate options suitable for adapting to inundation are recommended in the draft CHRMAP, and would be implemented through changes to the Local Planning Scheme, which are also recommended in the draft CHRMAP. Through preparation of the Local Planning Scheme, appropriate controls would be implemented, based on the identified further research and study.</p>
	<p>A perception or finding that long-term management of Cocos Islands may ultimately lead to leaving the island is an “obvious” outcome, specifically the larger the assumed scenario, and the more conservative the technique, this becomes more likely. By undertaking the CHRMAP at time frames of 50 years and 100 years and choosing severe design events / response, the evaluation effectively doesn’t support assessment of the transition from “tolerable” to “intolerable” conditions. A refined assessment, that tracks financial viability against conditions (e.g. erosion / sea level) rather than describing it in terms of time frames, potentially gives a better framework for triggers, and better understanding of the (likely) value of techniques that can extend the timeline for effective occupation.</p> <p>Right now, all the CHRMAP does is say “Once conditions get VERY bad, it’s better to leave the islands”. That’s obvious &amp; not worth the \$\$\$ and time that has been spent.</p>	<p>The scope and intent of SPP 2.6 is clearly defined. The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that retreat is the least favourable solution, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long term. The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is the basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies paths for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making pathway.</p>
	<p>Furthermore, there’s ZERO commentary about interventions, meaning the CHRMAP is not providing any basis for decision-making. Attached is a diagram illustrating how CHRMAP assessment framework controls the outcomes.</p> <p>They only look at outcomes for 50 year intervals (effect shown in slide 1 – doesn’t allow determination of how long conditions are “tolerable”) They do not consider interventions (effect shown on slide 2- this means that where adaptation might work, it gets rated as intolerable)</p>	<p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p> <p>It is unclear if the submission refers only to the summary report.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>So... in this case, the framework has affected the questions which can be asked of the CHRMAP... it can only ask "What is our long-term outcome?" From the perspective of the islanders, the framework [name and detail removed removed] may be a better tool for asking "What can we do to stay here longer?" although it didn't really provide a "What do we do next?".</p>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>Planning for climate change responses as complex as those required in CKI will depend on long-term and deep collaboration between all levels of government. The Australian Government is keen to continue engaging to develop these responses.</p> <p>This is linked to responses regarding the use of a CHRMAP as a planning document for informing all stakeholders, which notes the purpose of the CHRMAP and the opportunity for all parties to work together with the same information, to enable the widest range of future choices.</p>



	<p>Thank you to all at [name removed] for the extensive work you have on the draft CHARMAP, consulting with the community and extending the period for feedback. The draft outlines a number of options for the Cocos Keeling Islands to build resilience to weather events and to ensure the 'lifestyle enjoyed by the people on-island is protected' (Success Criteria 4, P74). With all the options at hand, adaption is achievable and should be the outlining goal rather than retreat. I have a few points that I'd like to put forward:</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
43	<p>Reef-top Barriers (detached breakwater) The draft CHRMAP presents a number of physical barriers to reduce, divert the impacts of wave action, storm and tidal surge. The draft however has not made mention of 'Reef-top Barriers', nor identified as a protection measure against damaging wave action. Reef-top Barriers have been successfully deployed in Tuvalu and have been proven to be effective in reducing wave energy before reaching shorelines. I would argue for their inclusion and suggest they be prioritised (short-term) as an effective means of adaptation, a strong and very viable option to reduce the weather impacts of erosion to effected shorelines on the Cocos Islands. Further details can be seen at TCAP (Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project), by accessing the Nanumea Detailed Design Report, specifically pages 22-25. <a href="https://www.adaptation-undp.org/sites/default/files/resources/nma_detaileddesign_r1.00wapps.pdf">https://www.adaptation-undp.org/sites/default/files/resources/nma_detaileddesign_r1.00wapps.pdf</a></p>	<p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
43 (cont'd)	<p>Seawalls</p> <p>Future actions outlined in Table 4 - Adaptation pathways (p15), suggests; 'Replace existing sandbags seawalls adjacent William Keeling Crescent with a concrete seawall'</p> <p>It's clearly evident that the Seabee concrete seawall has a far superior lifespan than sandbags. Page 60 of the draft (2.6.2 Constructed Controls) refers to 'functional life'. The data in Table 9 (p63) speaks for itself. The Seabee seawall remains in good condition after 25 years with projected life a further 20 years. Seabee seawalls must be prioritised over GSC seawalls. It is also worth noting that the Settlement concrete seawall, which failed in 2024 after 49 years of service, could be deemed a success.</p>	<p>Noted. The draft CHRMAP indicates a preference for Seabee walls where seawalls are to be considered for the reasons stated and because they can be delivered locally. However, short-term emergency works may still be undertaken using GSC if detailed design has not yet occurred when emergency management is required.</p>
	<p>It is worth noting that settlement groyne has been described as being in 'poor' condition. This is somewhat misleading as these groynes were removed. From all accounts these groynes were highly effective in building sand from longshore drift.</p>	<p>Information provided about the groynes in recent months will be reviewed to seek confirmation and accuracy. The CHRMAP will be reviewed as required. Assessment of groynes in the local coastal environment for long-term management has suggested that they will be ineffective in the long-term. Groynes can continue to be considered, with decisions made based on adequate scientific analysis.</p>
	<p>Inundation Hazard - I find the graphics on maps showing inundation hazard are somewhat misleading. There is a perception to some reading the draft CHRMAP that the island is going underwater primarily due to sea level rises and are unrecoverable. There needs to be clarity in the draft that inundation in these areas is periodic (due to heavy rain, tidal surge) and are recoverable.</p>	<p>Noted. Inundation mapping is challenging to convey with accurate depiction of both extent of impact and time of impact. The CHRMAP will be reviewed with refined content to further explain the limitations of the visual mapping outputs.</p>
44	<p>We recognise the CHRMAP has been prepared in line with the Western Australian state government State Coastal Planning Policy, including its methodology and 'adaptation options'. This approach has limitations for the challenges faced by the communities living on coral atolls of CKI. Specifically, it does not transparently identify where human migration and community resettlement is being recommended.</p>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is the basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>Planning for climate change responses as complex as those required in CKI will depend on long-term and deep collaboration between all levels of government. The Australian Government is keen to continue engaging to develop these responses.</p> <p>This is linked to responses regarding the use of a CHRMAP as a planning document for informing all stakeholders, which notes the purpose of the CHRMAP and the opportunity for all parties to work together with the same information, to enable the widest range of future choices.</p>
	<p>When reviewing the draft CHRMAP, please consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing considerable variability in use of the key term 'retreat' to ensure a consistent meaning and ready understanding when human migration is being put forward as an adaptation response option. Variations in the report include: retreat; managed retreat; long-term retreat; planned and managed retreat; planned or managed retreat; full retreat; and 'retreat from islands'.</li> </ul> <p>This concern is reiterated and extended - where 'retreat' means 'community relocation/resettlement to the mainland' a new/different/extended label should be used (in addition to the 4 standard response options) so it is clear, unambiguous and consistent. At the moment, it is difficult for the reader to easily identify where 'retreat' means relocation of physical assets vs relocation of whole communities elsewhere. The sensitivity of this matter is lost in the jargon/technical nature of the document. While this adaptation option is not a standard option in the WA State Coastal Planning Policy, the policy itself has not been developed with relocation of island communities in mind. The draft CHRMAP acknowledges that State Planning Policy 2.6 (requiring development of a CHRMAP) does not accommodate specific challenges of coral atolls. The specific limitations could be specified here, including how the CHRMAP has mitigated these in planning for CKI.</p>	<p>Noted. The challenges of the language of CHRMAP has been escalated in previous engagement. The CHRMAP will be reviewed with refined content to further explain the sub-categories possible in the overarching terms.</p>
45	<p>Home Island Water Treatment Plant "4" is more central to the island. Can this site be renamed – Home Island Water Treatment and Potable Storage Facility or similar</p>	<p>The CHRMAP will be reviewed and updated to reflect accurate naming conventions and risk to below ground assets.</p>
	<p>Area Marked as 3 – can this be renamed – Seawater Production Bores or similar – not desalination pumps.</p>	
	<p>For West Island the new water assets are not included – the Desalination Treatment plant site and Seawater Bores are not included. They are just North of the WWTP (13)</p>	
	<p>The West Island Current Water Treatment Plant Potable storage tanks are not included on the maps – these are located adjacent to the Airport terminal</p>	
	<p>Not captured in the mapping is the underground water/wastewater and power network. Inundation or coastal erosion of critical infrastructure will impact the ability to service the community or introduce potential public health impacts – (flooding sewer networks, impact to water quality of flooding to bores etc, public safety of electrical assets). The risk tables don't go into detail about the public health and safety risks from utility inundation or damage.</p>	
<p>Seawall construction and raising road on Home Island or relocation of Sydney Highway on West Island may impact existing or planned underground infrastructure. Would potentially require relocation of underground assets at these locations.</p>		

#	Submission	Response
46	<p>We are pleased to provide the following comments with regard to the Historic Heritage aspects of the document.</p> <p>The CHRMAP considers heritage and identifies the need for a Cultural Management Plan (CMP) which is envisaged as a holistic, high-level, guiding document containing key policy areas to guide appropriate management and consistent decision-making for the Island's built heritage. We note that a few key heritage assets are mentioned such as the Cemetery and Oceania House which are located on Home Island and will require further consideration of the proposed actions such as relocation.</p> <p>To improve identification of heritage assets in the CHRMAP, we recommend that a Local Heritage Survey (LHS) in line with the WA Planning Framework be developed, to inform the CMP and further support cultural heritage management. Completion of this prior to the CHRMAP being finalised would allow the risk assessments and vulnerability analysis to respond appropriately to the heritage context. The identified benefits of developing a LHS for CKI include:</p> <p>The structure provides an opportunity to comprehensively assess and record all local heritage values and places of local heritage significance not already captured on the Commonwealth Heritage List.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitates provision of accurate information and mapping of local heritage places to the public through WA's online heritage platform inHerit.</li> <li>• It aligns with the development of a Heritage List , a requirement of the deemed provisions of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015.</li> <li>• It will provide guidance to develop priorities and clear actions for heritage places within the CKI CHRMAP through the application of LHS management categories.</li> </ul>	<p>The CHRMAP will be reviewed and updated to reflect a recommendation to include a Local Heritage Survey (LHS). An LHS will not be complete prior to the finalisation of the CHRMAP, due to the urgent nature of community engagement and other works reliant on its endorsement.</p>
47 Preliminary Feedback	<p>COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS COASTAL HAZARD RISK MANAGEMENT AND ADAPTATION PLAN PROJECT – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE TO MAKE FORMAL SUBMISSIONS</p> <p>I write on behalf of the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Shire) in relation to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan Project. I note the current invitation for formal submissions on the draft CKI Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan dated August 2024 (draft v5) (CHRMAP), which closes on 30 June 2025.</p> <p>For the high-level reasons that follow, the Shire is most concerned with the current date for the closing of submissions in relation the CHRMAP, and hereby requests an extension of one year, to 30 June 2026, in which to provide a full and detailed response to the CHRMAP. The intended response is expected to be significantly informed by experts in the relevant fields to which the CHRMAP relates.</p> <p>To this end, I refer to a letter sent by the Shire to the Minister for Territories on 3 March 2025, outlining a number of Council resolutions regarding the CHRMAP and seeking support for postponing further community consultation until at least 30 June 2026.</p> <p>While a public consultation period of six months may be considered adequate for some stakeholders such as individual residents and businesses to express their views without expert opinion support, it is a wholly inadequate period for the Shire. The Shire is responsible for the good government of the district and must therefore act with all due diligence when responding to a document as significant as the CHRMAP, which will affect both current and future generations of the Cocos community.</p> <p>It should initially be stressed that at this time and until it has obtained the significant additional research necessary to enable a revised CHRMAP to be presented to the CKI community, the Shire must, out of a sense of prudence, wholly oppose, and does wholly oppose the CHRMAP.</p> <p>It is important that the Shire's concerns are addressed, as the State Coastal Planning Policy Guidelines (Guidelines) at clause 4.3.2 state that "CHRMAPs should be endorsed and adopted by the relevant management authority that will ultimately be the custodian and implementer of the plan". In this case, the Shire is that relevant management authority.</p> <p>The Shire is adamant that the CHRMAP as proposed will not be so endorsed. Other avenues for addressing its concerns are being investigated, in the event that this request for extension is not granted.</p> <p>State Planning Policy 2.6 – Coastal planning (SPP 2.6) and its associated State Coastal Planning Policy Guidelines (Guidelines) are, respectfully, primarily focused on applying to coastal areas on mainland, Western Australia.</p> <p>The Shire submits that a high degree of consideration, informed by expert opinion should be given to SPP 2.6 and the Guidelines' application to the unique context and circumstances of the islands of CKI.</p> <p>An extension of one year would allow the Shire to be advised by the numerous expert opinions that will be needed on various aspects of the CHRMAP to assess the modelling inputs and adaptation versus retreat strategies. Those experts will be drawn from the ranks of marine engineers, climate change experts, researchers and academics, civil engineers, and construction specialists. That additional time will also allow the Shire to undertake consultation with other island communities. Site visits to such communities are already planned, with the first ones occurring in the middle of this year. Such consultation will cover comparable and best practice methodology and approaches to addressing all of the issues faced by the CKI community in the face of rising sea levels.</p>	<p>The Australian Government is seeking ongoing engagement with the community and the Shire. The deadline for public submissions has not been extended as finalising the CHRMAP is a step in the process of addressing climate change impacts on CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies and decision-making. The next phase now begins, where the Shire of CKI, the WA Government, and the Australian Government use this policy advice to develop local planning documents and consider responses to the CHRMAP's recommendations.</p> <p>The Australian Government notes the formation of the Expert Panel and invites peer review.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
47 Formal Submission	<p>COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS COASTAL HAZARD RISK MANAGEMENT AND ADAPTATION PLAN PROJECT – PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS</p> <p>I write on behalf of the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Shire) in relation to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan project.</p> <p>The current invitation for formal submissions on the draft Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan dated August 2024 (draft v5) (CHRMAP) closes today, 30 June 2025. In a letter to you dated 16 June 2025, the Shire requested that that deadline for formal submissions be extended by 12 months. As of the date of this letter, that deadline has not been extended.</p> <p>Therefore, out of an excess of caution, the Shire has prepared preliminary submissions in respect of the CHRMAP. Those preliminary submissions are attached to this letter.</p> <p>As the Shire has indicated previously, it is not prepared to endorse the CHRMAP in its current form. The Shire’s preliminary submissions highlight what the Shire considers to be the many deficiencies in the CHRMAP and processes leading to it.</p> <p>The Shire remains hopeful that the deadline for formal submissions in respect of the CHRMAP will be extended as it has requested. This would allow for deeper and more meaningful community consultation about the proposed findings and recommendations in the CHRMAP, which are of grave concern to the CKI community. The Shire is also assembling an expert panel to address issues raised in the attached preliminary submissions.</p>	<p>The Australian Government is seeking ongoing engagement with the community and the Shire. The deadline for public submissions has not been extended as finalising the CHRMAP is a step in the process of addressing climate change impacts on CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies and decision-making. The next phase now begins, where the Shire of CKI, the WA Government, and the Australian Government use this policy advice to develop local planning documents and consider responses to the CHRMAP’s recommendations.</p> <p>The Australian Government notes the formation of the Expert Panel and invites peer review.</p>

#	Submission	Response
47 Formal Submission (cont'd)	<p>1.The following submission is made by the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Shire) in response to the 'Cocos (Keeling) Islands - Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (August 2024, Draft v5)' (CHRMAP).</p> <p>2.The Shire represents the nearly 600 people who live on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI).</p> <p>3.This submission is made in the context of the Shire's letter to the Honourable Kristy McBain dated 16 June 2025, primarily requesting an extension of the time allowed for the Shire to make submissions in relation to the CHRMAP [Annexure A]. We understand that an extension is likely to be granted. As this has not yet been confirmed in writing, the Shire is lodging this submission with its preliminary response to the CHRMAP.</p> <p>4.For clarity, the extension of time was sought as a matter of caution. It is the Shire's position that it is not, in fact, subject to the deadline of 30 June 2025 for public submissions. This is due to the Shire's position being described as a partner and/or critical stakeholder in the development of the CHRMAP, both in the relevant public website and document itself.</p> <p>5.Description of the Shire as a partner or critical stakeholder in the development of the CHRMAP is, however, apt to mislead. The documents give the impression that the Shire has been a full partner and co-author in the process. That is not the case. The Shire considers its involvement in, and support of, the development of the CHRMAP has been materially overstated in the CHRMAP. The Shire is not satisfied with the process, which has effectively prevented it from having a meaningful level of involvement in, and ability to participate towards the outcomes of, the CHRMAP to date. As a result, the Shire does not endorse the contents or outcomes in their current form.</p> <p>6. The Shire seeks to stress at the outset that it is highly concerned as to its present inability to formulate an informed view on the CHRMAP on the basis of advice, and as to the level of consultation that has occurred to date. It is the Shire's position that the only reasonable course of action is to allow an extension of time (if any such extension is required) of 12 months for the CHRMAP to be considered by the Shire in order for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Shire to be properly informed by the findings of a review of the CHRMAP by an expert panel (Expert Panel), which the Shire is presently establishing; and</li> <li>(b) proper consultation to be conducted, including consultation undertaken by the Shire.</li> </ul> <p>7. For the reasons that follow, the Shire is deeply concerned as to the medium-to-long-term finding of the CHRMAP, which can be summarised to be that "managed retreat away from both Home and West Islands will be the most viable option to protect lives in a socially, economically and environmentally respectful way". The present position of the Shire is that, without adequate expert assessment and advice, that finding is unsupported. The Shire strongly objects to this finding.</p> <p>8.The CHRMAP is of fundamental significance to the inhabitants of the CKI. The future finalised iteration of the CHRMAP will have an immense impact of the lives of people of the CKI, and will determine their ability to continue residing where their families have called home for generations.</p> <p>9.This document outlines the Shire's submissions under the following headings consistent with the structure of the CHRMAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Establishing the Context, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Aims and Objectives</li> <li>ii. Community and Stakeholder Engagement/Consultation,</li> <li>iii. Success Criteria</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) Risk Identification,</li> <li>(c) Vulnerability Assessment,</li> <li>(d) Risk Treatment,</li> <li>(e) Risk Treatment, Options,</li> <li>(f) Adaptation Options,</li> <li>(g) Implementation, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Short-term Implementation,</li> <li>ii. Long-term Implementation,</li> <li>iii. Financial Strategy and Funding</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The CKI CHRMAP has been prepared in accordance with WA State Government's Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning Policy and Guidelines based on nearly 10 years of technical research.</p> <p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>A CHRMAP process requires years of work underpinned by detailed scientific data and engineering expertise. The process and requirements are clearly defined and so external consultants are typically engaged to complete the technical work.</p> <p>The Shire agreed in 2016 to the Australian Government leading the development of the CKI CHRMAP. The Australian Government has fully funded and resourced the CHRMAP based on this request. All documents were prepared with the support of the WA State Government to meet planning guidance and best practice. The Shire was consistently invited to participate and was actively involved in each consultation.</p> <p>During five trips to CKI, the project team has invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. The Community Reference Group and Elders Group (PIPC) were also directly presented with information. These engagement activities significantly exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors. The possibility of retreat was communicated at the very first community engagement sessions in 2022 and has been accessible in publicly available documents since that time. Stakeholders were presented this information on multiple occasions.</p> <p>The Australian Government notes the formation of the Expert Panel and invites peer review.</p>

#	Submission	Response
47 Formal Submission (cont'd)	<p>10. The Shire's overarching submissions are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the nature of the CHRMAP does not allow it to be a tool to plan or recommend the relocation of the CKI community. Further, the unique and distinctive context of the CKI calls into significant question the applicability and usefulness of such a document;</li> <li>(b) the CHRMAP fails to meet the objective and principles that guide such documents. International authorities and best practice provide for numerous and thorough assessments to be conducted, particularly in relation to consultation, when coming to recommendations having the gravity of those made in the CHRMAP, and which have not yet taken place; and</li> <li>(c) to the extent that there is an expectation that the CHRMAP outcomes are to be endorsed by the Shire and the CKI community, the Shire considers that the CHRMAP should not be finalised for a period of 12 months until the informed opinion of its Expert Panel has been received and considered by the Shire. While the Shire understands the CHRMAP in its appropriate context (i.e., as a local (Shire) planning tool, not a Commonwealth directive) there are a multitude of associated risks in such a document stating without sufficient justification that the only viable long-term option is retreat from the CKI.</li> </ul>	<p>The CKI CHRMAP has been prepared in accordance with WA State Government's Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning Policy and Guidelines based on nearly 10 years of technical research.</p> <p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is not designed to assess how to relocate a community. It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for over several timeframes. The CHRMAP sets the basis for ongoing research and study.</p> <p>It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>Planning for climate change responses as complex as those required in CKI will depend on long-term and deep collaboration between all levels of government. The Australian Government is keen to continue engaging with all parties to develop these responses.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p>
	<p>A. ESTABLISHING THE CONTEXT</p> <p>12. As a preliminary point, while the Shire accepts for present purposes the application of the WA State Government's State Planning Policy 2.6 – State Coastal Planning Policy (SPP 2.6) and the State Coastal Planning Policy Guidelines (SPP Guidelines), it notes that these documents were primarily drafted with the intention of applying to coastal, mainland, Western Australia. Further weight needs to be given to the unique context and circumstances of the CKI in comparison to mainland WA when applying SPP 2.6 and the SPP Guidelines.</p> <p>13. Consideration should be given to emerging best practice from the Pacific. Australia has endorsed the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobilities (2023), which has relevance here. Subsequent related instruments, such as the draft Pacific Regional Guidance on Planned Relocations should also be considered. Consideration of these instruments and the domestic examples they are built on, such as Fiji's Planned Relocation Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for relocations, illustrates that the consultative process for the CHRMAP, while perhaps adequate for coastal planning, was wholly inadequate for assessing whether and how to move a community. Particularly so for a community having the unique cultural makeup that the CKI Cocos Malay community has.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is not designed to assess how to relocate a community. It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for over several timeframes. The CHRMAP sets the basis for ongoing research and study.</p> <p>A significant number of recommendations are focused on immediate- and short-term actions to make available a wider range of medium and long-term climate-change responses.</p> <p>It would be inappropriate if the CHRMAP did not recommend preparing for the significant challenges of long-term climate-change impacts and the most dangerous possible scenarios.</p> <p>The CHRMAP must consider the risk to community safety and recommend that decision-makers engage proactively in planning for complex long-term responses, including planned relocation, referring to international and regional experience as appropriate.</p>
	<p>14. As will be considered below in reference to the relevant sections of the CHRMAP, the Shire's position as at the date of this submission is that the CHRMAP fails to adequately meet a number of its stated specific objectives, being to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) improve the understanding of coastal features, processes and hazards in the study area;</li> <li>b) gain an understanding of the vulnerability of the coastal zones;</li> <li>c) identify significant vulnerability trigger points and respective timeframes for the study area management units (MUs) to establish when short and long-term risk management and adaptation action is required;</li> <li>d) identify assets (natural and man-made) and the services and functions they provide in the coastal zones;</li> <li>e) identify the value of the assets that are vulnerable to adverse impacts from coastal hazards;</li> <li>f) determine the likelihood and consequence of the adverse impacts of coastal hazards on the assets and assign a level of risk, identify possible management and adaptation measures ('actions') and how these can be incorporated into decision making;</li> <li>g) engage stakeholders and the community in the planning and decision-making process; and</li> <li>h) ensure that stakeholders understand the implications of possible treatment options including trade-offs, costs and possible negative aspects.</li> </ul>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. The CKI CHRMAP has been prepared in accordance with WA State Government's Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning Policy and Guidelines.</p> <p>As outlined in the CHRMAP and multiple consultation reports, the CHRMAP is based on nearly 10 years of technical research and multiple rounds of community engagement.</p> <p>The successful achievement of the CHRMAP's objectives is evidenced in the significant number of submissions received (representing 161 signatories) and the broad community representation in consultations over years of engagement.</p> <p>The majority of submissions from Cocos Island residents explicitly seek to continue contributing to the process of developing coastal hazard responses.</p>

#	Submission	Response
47 Formal Submission (cont'd)	<p>15. The Shire submits that the level of engagement and consultation conducted in relation to the CHRMAP has been insufficient. It fails to meet objectives (g) and (h) as set out above and the relevant objectives of the Coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning guidelines (July 2019) (CHRMAP Guidelines).</p> <p>16. As the CHRMAP itself acknowledges, "it is imperative to complete coastal hazard planning alongside the community affected by the decision-making process". The CHRMAP Guidelines relevantly state that consultation will assist in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) providing community and stakeholders with multiple opportunities to be involved and provide input into the CHRMAP process, particularly in identifying values;</li> <li>b) identifying potential responses to identified unacceptable and/or intolerable risks from as many sources as possible; and</li> <li>c) acceptance and success of the outcomes of the CHRMAP process given the community and stakeholders involvement in its development, encouraging a sense of community ownership for the CHRMAP.</li> </ul> <p>17. The CHRMAP Guidelines also state that consultation and engagement should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process;</li> <li>b) include the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision;</li> <li>c) promote sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers;</li> <li>d) seek out and facilitates the involvement of those affected by or interested in a decision; and</li> <li>e) provide participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.</li> </ul> <p>The Shire notes that two consultation and engagement reports were prepared in relation to the CHRMAP, at Stage 2 (Stage 2 CER) and Stage 5 (Stage 5 CER) in 2023, and the "Engagement Outcomes Summary Report" which appears as Appendix C to the CHRMAP (Appendix C). Significantly, Appendix C notes the following engagement outcomes between April 2022 and February 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 187 stakeholders were engaged in-person; and</li> <li>b) the project website had 403 unique users visit it.</li> </ul> <p>19. The above numbers are considered in the context of the measures of success as outlined in the CHRMAP, being a target of 400 for the "number of people aware (impressions on social media, website visits, document downloads)" and of 100 for "interested stakeholders (total number of people who contribute)". The Shire strongly submits that, in addition to issues as to the definition of 'stakeholder' and the verification that the unique users to the project website were in fact members of the CKI community, the consultation and engagement carried out not only fails to meet the CHRMAP Guidelines, but is grossly inadequate to inform any recommendation and outcomes towards the relocation of the CKI community. The measures of success appear to be set at an extremely low threshold. The Shire's position is that much more detailed and widespread consultation is required, which is something the Shire can facilitate.</p>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is not designed to assess how to relocate a community. It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for over several timeframes. The CHRMAP sets the basis for ongoing research and study.</p> <p>It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>Planning for climate change responses as complex as those required in CKI will depend on long-term and deep collaboration between all levels of government. The Australian Government is keen to continue engaging with all parties to develop these responses.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, The Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI.</p> <p>This engagement exceeds industry standard, reach metrics, percentage of population engaged, and resources applied. The extent of engagement would be considered best practice in any project completed by any experienced engagement practitioner.</p> <p>The CHRMAP will be reviewed and refined to further explain the sub-categories within the overarching 'retreat' term.</p>
	<p>20. As discussed below in these submissions under the heading "Risk Assessment", the Shire refers to the report of the United Nations Human Rights Council 'Planned relocations of people in the context of the adverse effects of climate change and disasters' (A/HRC/56/47, July 2024) (HRC Report). The HRC Report makes highly relevant findings as to consultation and engagement requirements in the context of considering planned relocations.</p> <p>21. As a guiding principle, States must obtain the consent of affected individuals and communities before undertaking any relocation efforts. In this context, the consent of the Cocos Malay peoples must be free, prior and informed. If such consent cannot be obtained, the HRC Report finds that relocation should only occur in a manner established by national laws and regulations, including public inquiries where appropriate, and which provides the opportunity for effective representation of the peoples concerned. The Shire submits that, as is evidenced by the CHRMAP's lack of application to the circumstances of the CKI, no such "established" national laws and regulations exist to allow for the comprehensive assessment required to allow a State to relocate an island community, with an attached unique identity and culture, away from its home. Thus, without extensive assessments being undertaken to definitively ascertain in the first instance whether CKI residents effectively provide free, prior and informed consent to relocation, any decision involving a relocation of the community cannot be made, and accordingly should not be an outcome of the CHRMAP.</p> <p>22. The CHRMAP notes that Home Island community representatives "told the CHRMAP project team that the Home Island community wished to be engaged on the CHRMAP through an 'Elders reference group'". While the Shire understands this to be true, it submits that in the context of an assessment that involves the potential complete relocation of the Cocos Malay peoples, a considerably higher degree of consultation and engagement than that which has occurred is necessary. The Shire reiterates the lack of suitability of the CHRMAP to make such recommendations, and at a minimum says that a Shire-led survey of the views of all CKI people, and a more concerted and meaningful effort to consult in person with all affected persons needs to be undertaken to align with international standards and best practice.</p> <p>23. It is important to note that the CHRMAP itself finds, in relation to adaptation options, that "the feedback indicates a continued desire to remain on the islands in perpetuity". On review of the stakeholder engagement documents accompanying the CHRMAP, it is clear that there is a "strong desire" from residents to be interred on their home island and concern with relocation due to significant historical memories.</p> <p>24. The Shire submits all five of the current success criteria in the CHRMAP have not been met. This is because, respectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) as is evidenced in these submissions, the CHRMAP is not agreed to by all members of the Project Steering Group (i.e., the Shire);</li> <li>b) the community does not fully understand the outcomes of the CHRMAP, and this is evidenced by the limited feedback received;</li> <li>c) similarly to the first success criterion, all outcomes of the CHRMAP are not at present supported by the Shire;</li> <li>d) the CHRMAP in its current form does not protect the lifestyle of people on-island, as is evidenced by the outcome of long-term managed retreat being found to be the only viable option; and</li> <li>e) the Shire has not endorsed the roles and responsibilities for management actions detailed in the CHRMAP.</li> </ul>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is not designed to assess how to relocate a community. It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for over several timeframes. The CHRMAP sets the basis for ongoing research and study.</p> <p>It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>More than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p>

#	Submission	Response
47 Formal Submission (cont'd)	<p>B. RISK IDENTIFICATION</p> <p>25. The Shire awaits the result of its Expert Panel in relation to the risk identification section of the CHRMAP, particularly in relation to the 'Cocos (Keeling) Islands Coastal Vulnerability Study' (RHDHV, 2021a) (Vulnerability Assessment). Given that the Vulnerability Assessment underpins the findings of the CHRMAP, the Shire considers that it is critical that time be allowed so that the Expert Panel can review it before the finalisation of the CHRMAP.</p> <p>C. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT</p> <p>26. As previously stated, the Shire considers an independent review of the Vulnerability Assessment and its implications in informing the CHMRAP to be necessary. For the reasons expressed in these submissions, the Shire considers that any recommendation for long-term retreat from the CKI should be given a far greater degree of consideration, and that the CHRMAP is not the appropriate assessment mechanism to inform, and plan for, any potential relocation of the CKI community.</p>	<p>The data in question has been publicly available since the publication of the Coastal Vulnerability Assessment (CVS) in 2022.</p> <p>No concerns about the veracity of the data or analysis have been received in the years since, including during the numerous consultations which informed the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The Australian Government notes the formation of the Expert Panel and invites peer review.</p>
	<p>27. Notwithstanding that the conclusions of the Shire's have yet to be received, significant issues have been identified to date in relation to the Vulnerability Assessment and CHRMAP in preliminary discussions with a number of experts, including the following.</p> <p>a) The CHRMAP evaluation is dominated by the S3 component of erosion assessment, which the Vulnerability Assessment itself notes is not representative of the way in which coastal change will occur on the CKI.</p> <p>b) By undertaking the CHRMAP at time frames of 50 years and 100 years and choosing severe design events/responses, the evaluation effectively does not support assessment of the transition from "tolerable" to "intolerable" conditions (see Figure 1 below). A refined assessment, which tracks financial viability against conditions (e.g. erosion/sea level) rather than describing it in terms of time frames, potentially gives a better framework for triggers, and better understanding of the (likely) value of techniques that can extend the timeline for effective occupation. By not considering interventions, scenarios where adaptation might work are rated as "intolerable" (see Figure 2 below).</p> <p>c) Further information is required to provide an informed assessment includes understanding the atoll's rock structure and stored sand mass (and its dynamics under changing conditions).</p>	<p>The scope and intent of SPP 2.6 is clearly defined in the guidelines. Modelling is dominated by S3 as it is a significant factor in long-term prediction models.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies short-term actions to verify assumptions made in developing longer-term pathways. It also recommends many immediate- and short-term measures to improve living conditions and address climate-change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>The first objective of CHRMAP engagement is to 'Inform the community and stakeholders about the extent of potential coastal hazards and the adaptation strategies available to respond to those hazards'. In progressing and then releasing this CHRMAP, the Australian Government is meeting this objective.</p> <p>Beyond this report, complying with coastal hazard planning requirements will require continual feedback and collaboration between all parties to develop available response pathways.</p>
	<p>D. RISK TREATMENT</p> <p>28. The adaptation hierarchy expressed in SPP 2.6 is tailored for the coastal zones of mainland Western Australia. The nature of the CKI as being a coral atoll in the Indian Ocean, is inherently unique, and is a scenario to which the application of SPP 2.6 would not have been given much, if any, consideration in the creation of the policy.</p> <p>29. The Shire observes the following quote from the CHRMAP: "It should be noted that there is no legal obligation for the Government to protect private assets from coastal erosion, with the CHRMAP guidelines indicating a clear preference against the adoption of Protect as a long-term adaptation pathway."</p> <p>30. In the context of mainland Western Australia, the above position as expressed in the CHRMAP Guidelines appears logical, with development not being encouraged in high-risk areas of the coast clearly in the interests of orderly and proper planning. On the CKI however, the issue is not that development is being sought in a high-risk area, but rather the entirety of the CKI is an area under significant threat and needs protection from the effects of anthropogenic climate change.</p> <p>31. When considering the application of the adaptation hierarchy, there needs to be significant weight given to the distinct context of the CKI. The Shire submits there should be a strong inclination to avoid Planned or Managed Retreat. As noted in the CHRMAP, for the CKI "Planned or Managed Retreat may mean Retreat away from the islands, as any suitable area of land within the island context is also subject to coastal hazards". In this regard, the Shire submits that it is outside the objectives of SPP 2.6 to effectively displace an entire community. In the CKI context, giving preference to the adaptation measure of Protection is preferable and consistent with SPP 2.6's objective to "protect, conserve and enhance coastal zone values". Indeed, in this case, mandating a Planned or Managed Retreat would in fact be inconsistent with the objectives and purpose of SPP 2.6.</p>	<p>The scope and intent of SPP 2.6 is clearly defined, and the Shire was both aware of, and supported development of, the CHRMAP in accordance with this policy. Modelling is dominated by S3 as noted, as this is a significant factor in long-term prediction models.</p> <p>The challenges associated with coral atolls are identified in the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP has identified that relocation may become a necessity in the long-term. It recommends steps should retreat be considered.</p> <p>Planning for climate change responses as complex as those required in CKI will depend on long-term and deep collaboration between all levels of government. The Australian Government is keen to continue engaging to develop these responses.</p> <p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is the basis for decision making, not an implementation document for any particular pathway.</p>

#	Submission	Response
47 Formal Submission (cont'd)	<p>32.The CHRMAP is fundamentally the incorrect mechanism for considering or planning to move entire communities in the face of climate change. The latter is a separate process, the development of which to date does not appear to have been advanced in Australia. To this end, the Shire refers to the HRC Report.</p> <p>33. Crucially, the HRC Report considers the internal legal tools that apply in the context of relocations of communities and emerging best practice globally on how to conduct such relocations in a manner that respects human rights. It is stressed that the responsibility to consider all possible alternatives to prevent displacement is especially pertinent in non-emergency circumstances.<sup>24</sup> The CKI faces a significant longer-term threat and there is still time to consider alternatives to retreat.</p> <p>34. The HRC Report finds the following key principles in a human rights-based approach to planned relocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) First, States have an obligation to prevent and address environmental risks. “States must have compelling reasons, strong evidence and a sound legal basis to initiate a planned relocation”. Relocation must be considered only as a last resort, once all other adaptation measures have been considered and reasonably exhausted, and those affected by the adverse effects of climate change should have a right to request or contest relocation in a court of law.</li> <li>(b) Second, States should, among other things, establish and implement adequate normative and institutional frameworks, conduct comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessment and planning and hold meaningful consultations in their approach to planned relocations.<sup>26</sup></li> <li>(c) Third, the right to self-determination, cultural identity preservation and control over land and resources must be respected.</li> <li>(d) Finally, in the event that planned relocation occurs, it should provide conditions that allow relocated persons to improve or at least restore their living standards. “It should also allow local populations to maintain their existing living standards, or reach the same level as relocated persons, whichever is higher”.</li> </ul> <p>The above principles as identified in the HRC Report further demonstrate that the CHRMAP is not an appropriate assessment tool for considering the relocation of an entire community. It is wholly inadequate for meeting the requirements for such an assessment to be considered in the requisite high level of detail and with sufficient certainty and foresight as to planning.</p>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is not designed to assess how to relocate a community. It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for over several timeframes. The CHRMAP sets the basis for ongoing research and study.</p> <p>It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p>
	<p>The Shire also observes that the way in which the CHRMAP uses the term “Managed or Planned Retreat” is inconsistent with how the equivalent term (planned relocation) is used in the HRC Report. The HRC report defines planned relocation as follows:  “Planned relocation is thus understood in the present report as a planned process in which ... groups of persons move or are assisted to move away from their homes or places of temporary residence, are settled in a new location, and provided with conditions for rebuilding their lives. Planned relocation is carried out under the authority of the State, takes place within national borders, and is undertaken to protect people from risks and impacts related to disasters or environmental change, including the effects of climate change.”</p>	<p>The challenges of the language of CHRMAP have been made clear to the project team.</p> <p>The CHRMAP will be reviewed and refined to further explain the sub-categories within the overarching ‘retreat’ term.</p>
	<p>37.The Shire is concerned that the CHRMAP, particularly the portion quoted at paragraph 29 above, conveys that it will be a private responsibility of the Cocos Malay community to remove itself from the CKI and relocate elsewhere. That would seem to fall well short of any concept of a “planned retreat” and risks subjecting CKI residents to arbitrary displacement.</p>	<p>The paragraph quoted states that the Australian Government has no legal obligation to protect private properties.</p> <p>It is not about planned and managed retreat. These are different matters.</p>
	<p>38.The HRC Report notes that dislocation of a people from their cultural home gives rise to impoverishment risks “such as landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, increased morbidity and mortality, food insecurity, loss of access to common property and social disarticulation.”</p> <p>39.In regard to the contention in the CHRMAP that there is “no legal obligation for the Government to protect private assets from coastal erosion”, the Shire notes the decision of the United Nations Humans Rights Committee in Daniel Billy and others v Australia (Torres Strait Islanders Petition) (CCPR/C/135/D/3624/2019, September 2022) (Billy). In Billy, Australia was found to have failed to adequately employ mitigation and adaptation measures to prevent negative climate change impacts on a group of Indigenous Torres Strait Islanders and the islands on which they lived.</p> <p>40.While Billy is a non-binding international ruling, it is clear authority for the internationally-backed expectation that the Australian and WA State Governments have a positive obligation to implement adaptation measures to protect the homes of the residents of the CKI. Both governments must also make timely adaptation measures to protect the collective ability of the unique quasi-indigenous population of the CKI to maintain their culture, traditions, and way of life, and critically the integral nature of the islands to this minority culture. This includes transmitting cultural knowledge of use of land and sea resources to future generations.</p>	<p>The Australian Government recognises that the impacts of climate change are serious and are already being felt, including in the CKI.</p> <p>In support of its commitment to respond to climate change, the Australian Government has introduced several significant policies to support the Australian community to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p>
	<p>E. RISK TREATMENT OPTIONS</p> <p>41.The Shire considers that an independent review conducted by the Expert Panel is required of the Multi-Criteria Assessment, Benefit Distribution Analysis, and the decision not to undertake a Cost Benefit Analysis, such that their implications in informing the CHMRAP can be verified.</p>	<p>The Australian Government notes the formation of the Expert Panel and invites peer review.</p>

#	Submission	Response
47 Formal Submission (cont'd)	<p>42.The CHRMAP acknowledges that retreat from Home Island will “impact physical connection to the island and the Cocos Malay peoples’ way of life, although the community’s social, cultural and economic connection to the islands will remain, albeit in a different way”. As outlined above in these submissions, the islands are a fundamental part of the Cocos Malay culture, yet no description is provided as to how these connections will remain in the event of retreat, and what rights may be retained by the Cocos Malay people in relation to the islands after any such retreat. The Shire submits that this lack of clarity further illustrates that the CHRMAP is inadequate in its ability to make any substantive provision for planned relocation and to provide the community with the requisite level of knowledge of such a plan to enable them to provide informed consent.</p> <p>43.The Shire submits that the CHRMAP fails to appropriately address and take account of the non-economic dimensions of relocation for the people of the CKI, namely the cultural, social and psychological impacts. As recommended by the Special Rapporteur, such factors should be subject to “thorough” assessments that involve the “full participation of affected communities and ensure the preservation of cultural identity”.</p>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is not designed to assess how to relocate a community. It identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for over several timeframes. The CHRMAP sets the basis for ongoing research and study.</p> <p>It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p>
	<p>F. ADAPTATION OPTIONS</p> <p>44. The Shire’s preliminary view is that the CHRMAP documents contain no meaningful assessment of the potential adaptation options. The only section that approaches such assessment is the simple matrix ‘step-up / step-down’ for adaptive capacity in the Vulnerability Assessment. As noted above, however, the way the Vulnerability Assessment has been framed renders it difficult to identify effective mitigation actions.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP identifies likely vulnerabilities of a do-nothing scenario.</p> <p>It is reasonable to assess longer-term adaptation options if the aim is to consider which short-term adaptation pathways would retain flexibility.</p>
	<p>45. In relation to the “Overarching Actions” and “Area-based Options” sections considered in the CHRMAP, the Shire considers that an independent review conducted by the Expert Panel is required to assess the appropriateness of these actions and the risk management pathways outlined in these sections.</p>	<p>The Australian Government notes the formation of the Expert Panel and invites peer review.</p> <p>The CHRMAP must consider the risk to community safety and recommend that decision makers engage proactively in planning for complex long-term responses, including planned relocation.</p>
	<p>G. IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Short-term Implementation</p> <p>46. Pending the findings of the Expert Panel, the Shire accepts the Protect pathway recommended by the CHRMAP for both the Home and West Island settlements in the short-term, including that Home Island groundwater/flooding investigation is required. The Shire otherwise considers that the review by the Expert Panel is necessary to confirm its position on this aspect of the CHRMAP.</p>	
	<p>Long-term Implementation</p> <p>47. The CHRMAP recommends that it be updated every five years, or as new information becomes available that may significantly affect the recommended adaptation pathways. The Shire submits that such an observation is further reason for the CHRMAP to not make recommendations towards long-term planned or managed retreat on both Home and West Islands such as are made in the CHRMAP, even with a disclaimer that monitoring and data review may result in long-term pathways changing substantially. The Shire agrees that undertaking groundwater studies are crucial, and submits that such studies should be conducted prior to any assessment on the long-term habitability of the CKI.</p>	
	<p>Financial Strategy and Funding</p> <p>48. It is acknowledged that the CHRMAP is a strategic document. Nevertheless, there appears to be no plan or discussion concerning financial strategy or responsibilities to support and facilitate the proposed approach. Neither have these aspects been an adequate part of the consultation with residents and stakeholders (such as has been conducted).</p>	
	<p>The Shire looks forward to the opportunity to provide more detailed feedback on the CHRMAP process and documents following the consideration by, and advice of, its Expert Panel.</p>	<p>The Australian Government notes the formation of the Expert Panel and invites peer review.</p>

Appendix A Individual Feedback and Responses

#	Submission	Response
48	<p>BACKGROUND</p> <p>The Cocos (Keeling) Islands are located in the Indian Ocean approximately 2770 kilometres northwest of Perth and 900 kilometres southwest of Christmas Island. They comprise twenty seven low lying coral islands covering a land area of 14 square kilometres. Only two islands are permanently inhabited, Home Island and West Island which are about 12 kilometres apart and on opposite sides of the lagoon. They are situated about 12 degrees south of the equator and have a tropical maritime climate.</p> <p>At the time of European discovery in 1609, the islands were uninhabited. They were first occupied by the Clunies-Ross in 1827 and Britain annexed them in 1857. The Clunies family recruited people from Asia, particularly Malaya, to work on the coconut plantations. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands have a large proportion of people from a non English speaking background. Home Island is the location of the Cocos Malay community which has social and cultural links both to Sabah in Malaysia and to Cocos Malay community in several centres in Western Australia. West Island has some Cocos Malay residents but its population is largely comprised of public servants, contractors and other short-term residents and their families.</p> <p>The majority of the Cocos Malay community that are living on Home Island are from the Muslim religion with only six or seven people who are non Muslim, comprising of commonwealth employees like nurses and doctor. The people that are living on West Island are mostly from the non Muslim community.</p> <p>In 1979 the Australian Government negotiated the purchase of the islands from John Clunies Ross for \$6.25 million. This excluded the five hectare area on Home island that comprised his family home in 1979. On the 6th of April 1984, the vote in the referendum was overwhelmingly in favour of integration with Australia.</p> <p>In this submission, we would like to raise the following express of concerns about life on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands with widespread flooding and coastal hazard risk. And would like the Commonwealth to consider and take action as earliest as possible.</p>	Noted.

#	Submission	Response
48 (cont'd)	<p><b>1. THE FLOODING</b>                      In the Cocos (Keeling) Islands during the cyclone season, flood frequently. The cyclone season on Cocos Islands runs between November to April every year. Therefore, the floods happen once or twice a year. And it is dependent on the weather situation such as if the heavy rain continue falls for 3 to 4 days. The flooding on Home Island is becoming worse with a number of areas that flood that never happen before. This is particularly around the settlement area next to the southern beaches and various other places. In some areas the flooding can reach up to 150mm in the kitchen, 100mm in the house and 300 mm or more on the ground.                      Some houses are using small sand bags protect from inundation but it is still unhelpful. The small sand bags were collected from the volunteer fire crews and some were collected by tenants provided from the volunteer fire crews and some were collected by the tenants themselves. The small sand bags were placed surrounding the house and the kitchens to protect water entering the house and the kitchen. To help with drying the water from the flood, the Shire of Cocos Islands workers pump the water to the lagoon using the pumping machine. The Shire has also installed 3 small size drainage pipes to drain the flooding water, but it can still take 2 or 3 days, as the drainage pipes are too small.                      The houses on the Cocos Islands were built using the concretes slab on the ground level. There are only a small number of houses including the units that were built using stumps to raise them to the high flood water mark. To demolish houses and replace with a new design using stumps is not an easy solution with the costs involved. To move the valuable assets from the lower areas to the middle of the Kampong (village) is again her problem as there is not enough space available.                      [name and house removed] on Home Island has expressed his concerns and said his house is easy to flood and water goes through the kitchen floor when the heavy rain has occurred. He asks that the Shire and the Commonwealth act as quickly as possible. He was supported by [11 names removed].                      [name and house removed] on Home Island and he was employed by the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands. He indicates that he was doing the work to build the road on Home Island, he says that the road built little bit high than the houses and its built with curve downwards at the front, and curve upwards at the back yard. Therefore, during the cyclone with heavy rain the water slides down to the properties from the road to the lower sites. He noticed his property which never used to, is now flooding, because of the rain water slides down from the road. He was supported by the above people. And the community ask that the Commonwealth and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) take action as quickly as possible before flooding become worse. As Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands built the road at the back yards with upwards curves little bit high and low to the end planned so that the water from the rain can slide down to the lagoon.                      Unfortunately, the plan doesn't work as what happen is that most of the rain water runs down to the lower site of every property. The Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands also installed the three holes or soak well one at the front row and two at the middle row without instal underground pipe line to drain the flooding water. The rain water created a lot of smells and harbours mosquitoes when it become full. For the rain water to sink in to the ground takes almost one week or more. With the flood issue, the majority of residents ask that the Commonwealth and the Cocos Islands Shire should take action as quickly as possible to fill up the lower areas with sand or other materials to stop the flooding. At the south islands, there are number of islands have been filled up by the mud sand. If there is no impact, it was suggested that the sand from the south islands be collected to fill up the flood areas on Home Island. Using the local sand is more supportive fill up the lower areas so that land can used to plant the local trees. And to fix the road to stop the rain water drain to the lower sites. Undertake a proper drainage assessment of the kampong and rectify drainage management failure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rectifying the heigh of roads so that they no longer drain into homes</li> <li>• installing drainage pipes below ground to remove the water</li> <li>• installing additional soak wells and water storage facilities</li> </ul> <p>Work with the community to assess measures for individual home protection and human health/safety measures during flooding including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess structures throughout the kampong to determine location of ingress of water and if buildings extensions should be modified to limit flood into homes.</li> <li>• Assess location of electrical, gas and water outlet in flood prone areas.</li> <li>• Work towards a bulk purchase of flood mitigation devices (i.e. door gates) for the primary residence.</li> </ul>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP. Drainage and water management studies have commenced and other related assessments, such as underground services assessment will also be undertaken.</p>
	<p><b>UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURES</b>                      Deep concerns about the underground infrastructures was raised by the Cocos Malay community. The underground infrastructures includes the underground cable and the toilets vacuum facility. The underground cables the boxes are installed on the ground not on the high position above the flood water marks and on the box is written "DANGER ELECTRICT CABLES". So, during the cyclone season when the islands are hit by the heavy rain non-stop for 2 or 3 days and the flood start to happen, these boxes are covered by rain water. And it looks dangerous since with electric faults or electric shock. People can get killed. with the toilet facilities vacuum, when the islands is full of flood water from the rain water most of the houses have their toilets blocked. The local Malay community ask that the Shire of Cocos (Keeling), the Commonwealth and the Water Corporation to take any action on these issues as quickly as possible before a bad accident has happens. And the local community ask that the electric cable be installed on a high position. The underground vacuum pipe be upgraded to stop from the blockage. Assess Kampong wide service infrastructure and determine if human health and safety is potentially being compromised by current loaction of infrastructure. Modify service infrastructure if required.</p>	

#	Submission	Response
48 (cont'd)	<p><b>COASTAL HAZARD RISK THE EROSION</b>                      The Cocos Malay community are aware and pay attention to the changes on the islands from time to time because of the erosion at every side and every corner. Therefore, the surrounding of the islands of the coastal areas have been affected. Especially, during the cyclone season and high tide. The sea water jumps to the foreshore. However, the high tide during the calm weather condition the sea water stay at the normal water line. When the high speed wind and high tide comes from the north direction, the back side area is fully affected with erosion, ocean water came to the land and pushed a lot of drifted rubbish to the land. A number of local trees were destroyed. With the strong wind coming from the west or south direction and with the high tide the south beach and the front west beach, the sea water came to the land same issue affected to the back side area. Along the south beach side, and along the cemetery south beach side to the west beach are fully affected.                      About 50 to 60 years ago the coastal line is about 10 to 15 meters further out to the sea. The community would like to see that the islands beaches back to where it was. Therefore, it was suggested that the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) islands and the Commonwealth to consider in establishing the water protection such as the sheet piled wall stop the erosion. The community would like to see that the islands beaches back to where it was. Therefore, the community request that the Shire of Cocos (keeling) islands and the Commonwealth to consider in establishing the water protection the sheet piled wall to stop the erosion. Assess option to include sheet piling to island edges at south beach and Cemetery Beach, increasing land area (reclamation).</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies which are underway.</p>
	<p><b>INSTALLED SANDBAGS</b>                      The sand bags have been installed by the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands along the coastal line to protect from the erosion. However, the sand bags only established a portion of the beaches not yet all of the beaches. As for the time being with the sand bags established, the beaches are safe and there is no more erosion except only when there was a strong wind with the big waves and sea water is splashing on to the land. Similar as to what was explained above. For the short-term the community asks that the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Island and the Commonwealth should consider putting more sand bags to stop the erosion in order to protect the islands and the community. Install more seabags along the southern beach.</p>	<p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many paths forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>
	<p><b>PROTECT THE CEMETERY - HOME ISLAND</b>                      The Local Malay community raised about the shortage of land at the cemetery area on Home island. Therefore, the community request that the cemetery on Home island be considered and filled up with more sand and compacted. The community request that the sand be used from other uninhabited islands, so that the area can be used to plant more local trees. About 50 or 50 years ago the coastal line of the cemetery its about 15 to 20 metres or more far to the sea. Due to the current movement and the erosion most of the land disappeared and most of the graves were washed out. Therefore, the community suggested that the Shire of cocos (Keeling) Islands and the commonwealth to consider in establish the sheet piled wall along the beach side 1-5 or 20 or more metres out to the sea and fill up the gap with the locally sourced sand so that the land can be used to plant more local trees. As community is interested to see the island how it was originally.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP recognises the cemetery specifically. Further work is required to determine the longer-term pathways for this location, notwithstanding short-term recommendations for increased protection/defence.</p>

#	Submission	Response
48 (cont'd)	<p>RETREAT AWAY FROM THE ISLANDS AS SEA LEVELS RISE</p> <p>In the summary report of the CHRMAP on page 7 stated retreat away from the islands. Subsequently, the ABC news released an information called 'COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDERS BLAST [PLAN] FOR Long-term RETREAT FROM RISING SEAS'. Hearing information above about the retreat away from the islands for long-term from rising seas, the Cocos Malay Community expressed their biggest concerns in relation to the issue for their young generation now and in the future and includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 'Lost their identity'</li> <li>2. 'Lost their cultural'</li> <li>3. 'Lost their customs'</li> <li>4. 'Lost their language'</li> <li>5. 'Future Young generations'</li> <li>6. 'Lost their traditional'</li> <li>7. 'And other issue of concerns that unexpected to happen'</li> <li>8. 'Love the islands'</li> <li>9. 'Love the Place'</li> <li>10. 'Love the environment'</li> <li>11. 'Love the sea'</li> <li>12. 'Love the community condition of life'</li> <li>13. 'Lost the history of the islands'.</li> <li>14. "Lost Property'</li> </ol> <p>As the local Malay community doesn't want to lost the above identities, therefore, the Cocos Malay community, will pray and wish that the islands will stay the same until the long-term for future generations. The majority of the local Malay community are prefer to stay on the islands and don't want to move away no matter what ever happen. The community recommending that the Commonwealth should help and act to protect the islands from the erosion, the flood and the community as quickly as possible. Please consider action as soon as possible to respond to the issues of erosion and flood as quickly as possible. The community prefers to remain settled on Home Island and urges the Shire and Australian Government to invest in protective measures instead of relocation. Please consider action as soon as possible to respond to the issues of erosion and flood as quickly as possible. The community prefers to remain settled on Home Island and urges the Shire and Australian Government to invest in protective measures instead of relocation.</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p> <p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies which are underway.</p> <p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many paths forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is the basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Noted. Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>

#	Submission	Response
49	<p>[details removed] - a community whose roots here go back generations. Our connection to these islands is not only physical but spiritual and cultural. The land, sea, and key community spaces form an important part of our way of life, and we believe this connection should be recognised and respected in all future planning.</p> <p>We would like to raise the following points for your consideration:</p>	<p>The community and all levels of government want to see improved coastal risk management and public safety across CKI.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies vulnerabilities and makes recommendations to be used in local planning policies. Understanding these vulnerabilities improves everyone's safety.</p>
	<p>1. Protection of Important Religious and Cultural Sites</p> <p>There are a number of places across both Home Island and West Island that are of great significance to our community, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cemeteries where our family and community ancestors are buried,</li> <li>• Masjids (mosques) which are central to our religious life and daily practice,</li> <li>• Traditional gathering places that help preserve our culture and heritage.</li> </ul> <p>These places are not just physical locations - they carry deep spiritual and communal meaning. If they are at risk due to erosion, sea level rise, or other coastal threats, we ask that they be prioritised for assessment, monitoring, and protection wherever possible. If changes or relocations ever need to be considered, we ask that the community is included in those discussions from the beginning.</p>	<p>The Australian Government, the Shire, and the community are in a better position to cooperate and collaborate through having the CHRMAP.</p> <p>The CHRMAP expressly recommends improvements to existing seawalls and additional lengths of seawall to protect the Home Island settlement, as this submission requests, subject to detailed additional studies which are underway.</p> <p>Connection to the islands, including deep cultural identity is deeply respected and acknowledged. The CHRMAP identifies vulnerability and provides advice on many paths forward, with the potential for short-term actions that allow for continued connection to the islands as a home, recognising that there are many challenges. The Australian Government will continue engaging with all parties to develop next steps and pathways, considering how cultural connection and identity is maintained in a way that also ensures community safety.</p>
	<p>2. Ongoing and Culturally Sensitive Community Engagement</p> <p>We would like to emphasise the importance of regular and respectful engagement with local community groups, including the Islamic Association. It is essential that the voices of the people who live here are not only heard but taken seriously when shaping future decisions.</p> <p>We encourage the Government to continue community consultation in a way that is accessible and inclusive - this means making space for elders, young people, and nonEnglish speakers, and allowing time for proper community discussion and feedback.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p>
	<p>3. Planning with Future Generations in Mind</p> <p>We want our children and grandchildren to be able to live safely and meaningfully on the islands. CHRMAP should focus not just on physical solutions, but on making sure our islands remain liveable and culturally intact well into the future.</p> <p>This includes maintaining housing, infrastructure, and services in a way that supports community wellbeing, while also ensuring cultural traditions and community ties are not lost in the process.</p>	<p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p>
	<p>4. Support for Local Resilience and Awareness</p> <p>We would like to see more resources directed toward helping local people understand coastal risks and how we can prepare for them together. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community awareness sessions (in both English and Cocos Malay),</li> <li>• Training programs for young people on environmental resilience,</li> <li>• Support for local projects that strengthen our ability to respond and adapt as a community.</li> </ul> <p>We believe that locally-led solutions - supported by government - will be the most effective and sustainable.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p> <p>The Australian Government appreciates the community's interest in contributing to citizen science programs. The Australian Government is assessing options for such activities and will discuss this further with the community. The Australian Government looks forward to the community and all levels of government working together to manage climate change impacts.</p>
<p>Final Words</p> <p>This process is a big step toward preparing for the future, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be involved. For our community, this is not just about science or infrastructure - it is about protecting a deep way of life rooted in faith, family, and connection to place.</p> <p>We look forward to continuing to work with the Government to ensure that our unique voice and values are part of the future planning for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.</p>	<p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p>	

#	Submission	Response
	<p>I would like to start by thanking [project team reference - names removed] for compiling a thorough and compelling read. The Draft CHRMAP report is a stark reminder that, without a universally shared acknowledgment and response to climate change, parts of the world (including ours) could be irrevocably changed. And I say, "could be". Without the benefit of foresight, it is difficult to know what our island home will look like in 20-50-100 years' time. There is plenty of scientific assertions contained within the CHRMAP report which indicates our ability to live and work here will be terminally compromised due to sea level rise, inundation and erosion. While this could well be true, there could also be a reasonable argument to suggest the underestimated resilience of a coral atoll like ours.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The challenges associated with coral atolls are identified in the CHRMAP.</p>
50	<p>We have not been accorded the time to argue the science, predict the future, debate "1 in 100 year storms" or question whether sea level rise will be 5mm or 50mm, but I do take issue with the conclusion drawn from the report: "Retreat". If this is to be the first in a series of reports that ultimately go on to form the backbone of planning for the islands, it seems sadly fatalistic. It gives those in (and with the) authority the justification to "do nothing". The "retreat" conclusion of this report enables present and future governments to limit any viable interventions on the basis that, the net result will be unchanged – Cocos will be under water.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p> <p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI's unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>My argument is that we are fortunate, Cocos has all the materials it needs to keep its “head above water” and perhaps these local solutions haven’t been fully explored before the “retreat” conclusion was made. We have plenty of sand, it hasn’t disappeared, it’s just moved and more made each year. Now we just need to move it to where we need it – starting with Home Island.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
50 (cont'd)	<p>While the Draft CHRMAP is very scientific and detail-driven and my submission is the opposite, there are a few assumptions or assertions that can be easily identified as flawed.</p> <p>1. The consultants advised the community that the groynes on West Island washed away naturally. This is untrue. They were deliberately removed by the Commonwealth, who cited “environmental” reasons. It begs the question, if they were still there, would West Island have the problem/s we have now?</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p>
50 (cont'd)	<p>2. The technical specialists advised that West Island had both inundation and erosion and groynes could not possibly address both. On the lagoon side of the island we have inundation and on the other we have erosion, they don’t happen at the same place nor the same time. Groynes can treat one and bunding the other. These are separate and can be treated as such.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
50 (cont'd)	<p>3. We were told “groynes are not effective”. There is extensive and well researched evidence which says otherwise, particularly for long shore drift.</p>	<p>Information provided about the groynes in recent months will be reviewed to seek confirmation and accuracy. The CHRMAP will be reviewed as required. Assessment of groynes in the local coastal environment for long-term management has suggested that they will be ineffective in the long-term. Groynes can continue to be considered, with decisions made based on adequate scientific analysis.</p>
50 (cont'd)	<p>4. We were told “inundation with sea water is inevitable”. This is very unlikely. In storm situations, Home Island floods with rainwater. Building up Home Island with dredge sand can “harden” the Kampong to both flooding and inundation.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Scientific modelling shows that the sea level is rising as predicted, increasing the risk of seawater inundation. This is a model built on data and not a certainty.</p> <p>The CHRMAP supports decision-makers to consider and prepare for these risks. It identifies many short-term measures to address current climate-change impacts; including drainage and water management studies to better understand the likely effects of combined rainfall flooding and seawater inundation.</p>

#	Submission	Response
50 (cont'd)	<p>5. While it might not be the function of the CHRMAP to map out what “retreat” would mean, this hasn’t been explored sociologically or economically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sociologically, it would mean the end of an ethnic micro community. It is hard to see how it could be moved elsewhere. There would be no place in Australia where 600+ people could be housed so its unique culture could be maintained.</li> <li>- Economically, how do we even pay for such a move? How would the community be housed? Who will do the work to keep the runway operational? How could the on-island workers be housed, when no houses are available on West Island now (2025)? Even if there were houses on West Island available, it is not practically suited to a community so sociologically and economically integrated with the sea.</li> </ul>	<p>A CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning, which recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>Planning for climate change responses as complex as those required in CKI will depend on long-term and deep collaboration between all levels of government. The Australian Government is keen to continue engaging to develop these responses.</p> <p>This is linked to responses regarding the use of a CHRMAP as a planning document for informing all stakeholders, which notes the purpose of the CHRMAP and the opportunity for all parties to work together with the same information, to enable the widest range of future choices.</p>
	<p>6. “Seawater will reach inland as far as indicated (map)”. No, it won’t. Inundation is not a tidal wave. It cannot travel at any great speed. I do not know what speed it would travel, but it only has the last hour of a high tide to cross ground before the tide turns. Home Island would be the most prone, but even then, freshwater flooding has already been higher than the inundation levels indicated by CHRMAP.</p>	<p>Scientific modelling shows that the sea level is rising as predicted, increasing the risk of seawater inundation. This is a model built on data and not a certainty.</p> <p>The CHRMAP supports decision-makers to consider and prepare for these risks. It identifies many short-term measures to address current climate-change impacts; including drainage and water management studies to better understand the likely effects of combined rainfall flooding and seawater inundation.</p>
	<p>I don’t mention these to pick holes, but to bring attention to local knowledge and insight that seems to be lacking in the report. The report confirms community consultations took place, but I can’t see where this has been captured in its pages. Arguably (or argumentatively?), it was a ‘tick the box’ process.</p>	<p>Engagement for this project has been fully documented in several published communications reports. The project team visited CKI five times and held formal and informal engagement activities over multiple days each time. In total, more than 400 people and organisations were engaged directly, with over 180 contributions prior to the draft CHRMAP being prepared.</p> <p>Prior to and during each engagement activity, the project team invited community participation through the Shire, the Atoll, and by sending direct emails to interested residents, the reference group, and all contactable organisations on CKI. These engagement activities exceeded typical CHRMAP processes in recognition of CKI’s unique remoteness and cultural factors.</p> <p>While noting the depth of engagement activity, it is recognised that the remoteness of the CKI community and the capability gaps, time limitations and resourcing of remote communities to engage on external project time frames, creates significant challenges to their involvement and engagement in processes like this.</p> <p>The challenges the CKI community may have faced in engaging with CHRMAP processes are acknowledged and the government is committed to engagement with affected groups and appreciates feedback on preferred consultation approaches. This is an opportunity to bring the community, key stakeholders and government together more meaningfully, to achieve the collaboration that all parties seek.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is not the end of the decision-making process, but a point in time where the best available and most contemporary data is compiled and made public so that all members of the community and key stakeholders can be fully informed and active participants in their own decision making.</p>

#	Submission	Response
	<p>Process, procedures and engineering have the answers to provide resilience and livability for Cocos. We cannot directly contradict the CHRMAP report but there are big gaps in the logic process and procedures set out. The biggest is to offer a conclusion of "retreat". I am sure the report would be just as effective without offering any conclusion, particularly one so dire. And. We have time. A "retreat" of the Kampong on Home Island would be a great injustice. The community has done little, if anything, that would be detrimental to their own environment. While the global community has sold carbon fuels at a great rate knowing more and more certainly the impact that will come from their use.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
50 (cont'd)	<p>Many people are already bearing the direct costs of climate change. While generally unpredictable, it seems the rural and remote communities bear much of the brunt. With homes and businesses flooded, destroyed by wind, fire or weather. Though we, as Australians, are proud of surviving in a country of "drought and flooding rain", these natural aspects do not need any help from the changing weather.</p> <p>What is required is sensible generational and on-going hardening responses to the upcoming challenges. Many such solutions have been suggested for Cocos. I'm sure other communities would have sensible responses too.</p> <p>I am more and more of the belief that small rural and regional communities on flood plains, grasslands, forests and islands of Australia have been let down. We have the moral fibre, work ethic and community that can survive this and other challenges. We might need a hand from time to time but maybe let us have a go, work it out so we address the actual practical issues experienced on the ground – by the people and for the people. I am past confident the community will endure.</p>	<p>The CHRMAP is a technical assessment used for planning. It recommends ongoing research and study to understand existing and predicted coastal impacts. It is a basis for decision making, rather than laying out decisions and implementation plans.</p> <p>A CHRMAP identifies options for decision-makers to consider and prepare for – attempting to avoid those which limit options in the future. This is why adaptations are explored in the hierarchy of avoid, planned and managed retreat, accommodate then protect.</p> <p>The CHRMAP compiles, analyses, and makes public contemporary data so that the CKI community and all levels of government can understand their role in looking after the coast, and continue working together to manage impacts. It is not the end of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement is recommended in the CHRMAP, reflecting a commitment to understanding the cultural and social connectedness to the islands and what the next steps will look like in tangible ways. It is this ongoing engagement, with a fully informed community, actively participating in their own decision making, that will ensure the community of CKI have an ongoing role in determining pathways and next steps.</p> <p>The CHRMAP identifies many immediate- and short-term measures to improve conditions and address climate change impacts that the community is already experiencing.</p> <p>There are also many recommended subjects for ongoing research and study. The CHRMAP explicitly recognises that planned and managed retreat of the settlement is the least favourable solution for the community, but notes that planning for this potential is needed as retreat may become necessary in the long-term.</p>
Informal	<p>Rumah Baru Boat Ramp: There are references throughout the document to the Rumah Baru boat ramp (eg: p 12, 180, 230). Can you please clarify if the references to the 'Rumah Baru boat ramp' on West Island are a reference to the currently non-operational recreational boat ramp located adjacent to the main jetty at Rumah Baru? For example, at Page 230 (Table 36), item # 7 recommends 'Rumah Baru boat ramp assessment to consider maintenance or design alterations, or relocation' as an immediate action. Is this a reference to the recreational boat ramp?</p>	<p>This informal submission is noted. The CHRMAP will be reviewed and updated to reflect accurate detail associated with the historic jetty infrastructure at Rumah Baru.</p>

