

6 INTERIM PROTECTION MEASURES

6.1 Background Considerations

A number of coastline threats have been identified relating primarily to erosion and oceanic inundation associated with severe coastal storm events as outlined in Section 2.4. Where this threat and the associated consequences are high, consideration should be given to implementing interim measures to reduce the risk and/or consequences prior to the adoption of the final Coastline Management Plan. Such measures would also reduce the need for emergency actions in the event of storm conditions.

These measures may include specific works, monitoring or regulatory actions. Again, as they are interim measures, they should be consistent with the goals of the NSW Coastal Policy, take into consideration likely final coastline management options and have all requisite approvals.

6.2 Specific Requirements

6.2.1 Protective Seawalls

As outlined in Section 4.6.1, most areas under immediate threat from erosion have a seawall of some form seaward of them. These walls are likely to provide sufficient interim protection against moderate storm wave attack and hence no specific works have been identified at this stage.

There remains some uncertainty with respect to the details and level of protection provided by older buried seawalls. Should these be exposed by storm conditions, a reassessment can be made at that time as to the need for and benefit of upgrading these walls (post storm). This should take into consideration available knowledge with respect to the timeframe and likely nature of future coastline management options.

Regular monitoring of all seawalls should be carried out, particularly following any storm wave exposure and any maintenance works carried out to ensure their structural stability is retained.

6.2.2 Dune Management

The potential for oceanic inundation is related primarily to the status of the dune system with respect to crest elevation and volume. As outlined in Section 4.6.1, it is noted that the crest elevation of the constructed dune at the southern end of Lennox Head may be lower than the original design level in places. This should be reviewed and works carried out as necessary to reinstate the intended design crest level.

Similarly, the crest elevation of the dunes at the southern end of Pacific Parade appears to be lower than RL 6.0m AHD. Surveys should be carried out to confirm dune levels in this area and works undertaken as necessary to maintain a crest elevation of at least RL 6.0m AHD and thereby minimise the risk of overtopping.

Implementation of appropriate dune management measures including pedestrian control to protect dune vegetation and prevent wind erosion should be included as part of ongoing works programmes.

Regular monitoring and maintenance works should be carried out as necessary to ensure weak points (lowering of crest) do not occur.