

Understanding Coastal Impacts on Sea Country

Bringing Indigenous knowledge and Western science together to understand climate impacts on Country.

The NESP Climate Systems Hub Indigenous Partnerships Team is developing Indigenous-led research and resources to inform national and international climate decisions. The team is partnering with Indigenous communities to deliver on-Country case studies based on themes from the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change.

Coastal impacts on Country and culture

Changes:



Rising sea levels



Coastal erosion and inundation



Storm surges and coastal flooding

Impacts:

- Communities, infrastructure, cultural practices, sites and knowledge at risk
- Impacts on connection to Sea Country
- Loss of habitat for native wildlife and culturally significant species
- Decline of bushfood, medicinal plants and traditional resources
- Saltwater intrusion causing salinity, vegetation decline, and wetlands loss

Case study focus

- Build shared understanding of coastal change through Indigenous knowledge and Western science
- Inform coastal planning and decision-making
- Share data and address knowledge gaps
- Strengthen Indigenous leadership in climate science and policy
- Inform adaptation and climate policy, such as through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Case study locations

- Torres Strait Islands, including Masig Island
- Yarrabah and surrounds, Queensland



Yarrabah Coastal Impacts



Case study focus

- Workshops and community-led site visits
- Lived experience and local knowledge
- Mapping coastal change over time
- Validating and sharing findings with communities

Next steps

- Expand Torres Strait engagement
- Model future coastal change
- Continue co-designed research and knowledge exchange
- Develop outputs, including publications

Further information

Find out more about this and other case studies:
info@nesp2climate.com.au

