Submission on Coastal Hazard Mapping & Planning

Key Issues

Community-Led Protection:

 Local communities have taken independent action to mitigate inundation risks (sea walls, drainage improvements, pumps etc.)

• Policy & Guidance Gaps:

- Natural Hazard Policies allow maintenance of existing properties but lack clarity on protection measures and thresholds for habitability
- National guidance is needed to ensure property owners incorporate climate change effects in development decisions.

Mapping Concerns (Variation 2):

Data & Accuracy Issues:

- As a former GIS instructor, I recognize errors in mapping layers, which are based solely on elevation data without considering real conditions.
- The Coastal Severe layer LiDAR data predates 2018 and does not account for post-cyclone coastline changes or protective structures include the significant of private infrastructure.
- Example: In Hector, most beachfront properties have protective sea walls (some government-funded, others privately built) up to 5m high, yet they are incorrectly mapped within the severe hazard zone.

Impact of Mapping Inaccuracies:

- Incorrect hazard classifications impact insurance, rates, and property values.
- Maps should reflect up-to-date and on-ground realities, as they significantly influence planning and community resilience.

Requested Decisions:

- 1. **Include existing protection structures** in coastal hazard planning
- 2. **Define maintenance requirements** for these structures to ensure long-term effectiveness and ongoing resilience
- 3. Incorporate climate change planning into policies for consistent national guidance
- 4. **Engage with local communities**, who have firsthand knowledge of solutions and conditions
- 5. Ensure mapping aligns with current, real-world data, not just elevation models.





