

Report No:	REP12-09-09
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Information Only – no decision required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee
Meeting Date: Thursday, 20 September 2012
Report Author: Trevor James, Resource Scientist
Subject: **Tasman Coast: Habitat Mapping, Ecological Risk Assessment and Monitoring Report**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past two years field mapping and risk assessments have been undertaken for almost all of Tasman's coastline, except for the coasts of Farewell Spit and Abel Tasman National Park, where this has not been undertaken previously. A full report is now available that includes available habitat maps (including those from previous investigations) and detailed risk assessments to habitats within estuaries, beaches and dunes, rocky shores and terrestrial margins.

Tasman District's coast is ecologically diverse with a broad range of habitat types. It is a place of high biological diversity and high economic value. Despite these high values the vulnerability assessment identified a number of key issues:

- excessive muddiness and, to a lesser extent, nutrient enrichment of estuaries and embayments,
- elevated disease risk, particularly after heavy rain, in estuaries and embayments, for consumers of shellfish or swimmers
- habitat loss through sea level rise, and ecological change through sea temperature and acidity change,
- duneland loss through over-stabilisation,
- saltmarsh loss through historical reclamation,
- loss of the natural vegetated terrestrial margin buffer,
- habitat loss through shoreline armouring.

The 10 page executive summary is attached. Hard copies of the full report are available on request.

Now that we understand more of these the values and the risks to these values we are in a much better position to manage them appropriately.

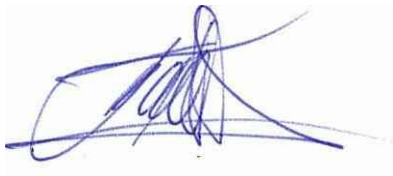
RECOMMENDATION

That report REP12-09-09 be received. This report is a State of the Environment report that will be of wider interest and it is recommended that it be received and released.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee:

- 1. Receives REP12-09-09 Tasman Coast: Habitat Mapping, Ecological Risk Assessment and Monitoring Report, and**
- 2. Agrees to release the report as part of its State of the Environment programme of work.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor James', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trevor James
Resource Scientist