Gold Coast seawalls

Here on the Gold Coast we have a 52-kilometre coastline, extending from Point Danger at the New South Wales border to Jumpinpin on South Stradbroke Island.

Our beaches are always changing due to natural coastal processes and weather patterns. Erosion can impact beachfront properties, and where relocation of infrastructure is not possible, engineered seawalls are used as a component of the city’s defence mechanisms against coastal erosion.

Seawalls on the Gold Coast are made of large boulders buried under the sand and are used to protect properties and infrastructure.

The A-Line

Seawalls must be constructed along an approved alignment called the A-Line.

This alignment was established by the Queensland Government following severe storm erosion in the 1960s and 1970s.

The location of the A-Line is defined by a number of factors, including the presence of existing walls, and ensures a smooth line along the foreshore.

Seawall construction requirements

The standard seawall design was developed by the Department of State Development and was adopted as the minimum standard for Gold Coast seawalls in 1973.

There are 18 kilometres of public urban shoreline and nine kilometres of private, urban property that require seawall protection.

The City’s Land Development Guidelines and City Plan ensure that seawalls are constructed to a standard design. Guidelines are available from the City Plan Schedule 6.9.7.6 - Foreshore seawalls and dune fencing (S05.9.7.6) to assist you during the construction phase.

Seawall construction and certification program

We have an ongoing seawall construction and certification program that prioritises public seawalls for construction, renewal and recertification. The seawall program is critical in meeting the City’s Ocean Beaches Strategy objective of ensuring that our infrastructure is protected from coastal hazards.

The program includes:

- renewal and recertification of existing seawalls from previous decades
- construction of new seawalls to join individual seawalls together and provide whole of coast protection
- investigations of older seawalls (called peel backs) to check their condition (saving $18.9 million in renewal costs).

Find out more in our Gold Coast seawalls fact sheet.

Private seawall requirements

Triggers for the construction or recertification of private seawalls are contained within the City’s development processes. This includes the development or redevelopment of beachfront property, including material change of use.

Seawall construction for private properties remains the responsibility of the property owner.

Download our fact sheet for building a private seawall.

Related information

- Coastal management

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Key information

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