YORKE PENINSULA COUNCIL FACT SHEET COASTAL PROTECTION STRUCTURES PROJECT JAMES WELL LEVEE CONCEPT

Why do we need protection at James Well?

James Well is located at the northern end of Gulf St Vincent and is vulnerable to seawater flooding during high tides and storm surges. Over time the seawater flood risk will also increase with sea level rise.

Council has previously undertaken a seawater flood study at James Well, investigating the potential extent of seawater flooding and identifying potential future adaptation options to manage seawater flood risk.

The flood study identified that portions of James Well North and James Well South are currently vulnerable to seawater flooding, (Figure 1). These areas require flood protection to prevent inundation of properties, roads and other assets.





Figure 1 – Flood extent James Well North (left) and James Well South (right)

What protection options are available?

In 2022/23 Council received Coastal Protection Board grant funding to develop protection options at James Well and 3 other townsites on the eastern Yorke Peninsula coastline. This study has used recent survey data collected on site combined with updated water level information from the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) to develop protection concepts.

For James Well North and South, the proposed protection concept involves a series of levees and road raising to prevent seawater flooding.

The proposed concepts are presented in Figure 2 on the following page and consist of:

- 1. At James Well North, a 1m to 1.5m high levee between property boundaries and the ocean running parallel to James Well Rd.
- 2. At James Well South, a 1m to 2m high levee between property boundaries and the ocean running parallel to James Well Rd.
- Two 0.5m high raised sections of James Well Rd

What are the potential impacts?

The impacts of the proposed structures are considered to be relatively minor and include:

- Visual impact of the levee. The levee will be capped with topsoil to promote the growth of grass to be walkable and appear less visible.
- Requirement for clearing of some vegetation on the coastal reserve lot between James Well and the ocean.
- The Walk the Yorke trail will be modified slightly to safely cross the levee.
- James Well Rd will be raised up to 0.5m in two locations.
- The levee will tie into properties on the southern end of James Well.

When would these options be implemented?

Protection options are likely to be constructed in the short to medium -term, with Council working closely with the community on funding models, including potential co-funding arrangements.

What next?

Council will be holding a community information session on 11/08/2023 at 11.00am at James Well Community Centre to discuss the concepts. Interested community members are encouraged to attend and provide any feedback.

Approvals and detailed design of the proposed seawall will develop once community and key stakeholder feedback has been received.

Want further information?

If you require further information on the project, please contact Council at:

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Figure 2 – Levee concept plans



