



Media release

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Main Beach retaining wall tests come up positive

Seaside erosion at Yamba continues unabated, with the retaining wall at the town's Main Beach now under the spotlight.

Clarence Valley Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage have engaged a team of specialists to advise on how best to tackle the erosion problem.

Mayor Richie Williamson said the issue arose in May, 2009 when severe storms lashed Main Beach – washing out tonnes of sand.

“This resulted in the toe of the revetment wall at the back of the beach being undermined and a crack developed along the wall,” the mayor said.

“The bottom half of the wall settled, leaving a gap large enough for children to play in. Council was concerned for the safety of children should a part of the wall collapse – trapping them inside. The crack was filled with concrete.”

Now, council and the Office of Environment and Heritage are questioning the soundness of the Main Beach retaining wall should another storm event undermine the toe of the wall.

“We are jointly funding a study into the soundness of the revetment wall,” the mayor said. “Last week an excavator was used to dig test holes to determine if conditions below the sand would offer enough structural support for the toe of the wall to be strengthened.”

“The next part of the study is to develop a number of options for the revetment wall for presentation to the community,” the mayor said.

The Maritime and Waterways Group from Haskoning Australia Pty Ltd have been engaged to provide advice on the revetment wall.

Release ends.

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