

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security:

Rising Sea Levels

1. What resources are allocated in the 2022/23 budget to address the issue of rising sea levels and how they will impact communities such as Milingimbi in North East Arnhem Land?

Response:

There is approximately \$40,000 carried over from the 2021/22 budget to develop an online platform to display existing flood and storm surge mapping information to assist Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services with flood and storm surge planning and response operations. This is provided through the Northern Territory Risk Reduction Program funding through the Commonwealth.

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) are currently developing a similar tool to allow public access to property flood risk information for selected design flood and Storm Surge scenario's.

Existing storm surge mapping covering the north coast of Arnhem Land, including Milingimbi, is derived from the 2016 Top End Communities Storm Tide and Inundation study, which covered coastal NT with the exception of Darwin and the Gulf of Carpentaria. Existing storm surge mapping includes predicted storm surge events to 2100 based on the best available climate change knowledge from 2016 and can be found online at <https://depws.nt.gov.au/water/water-resources/flooding-reports-maps/storm-surge-inundation-maps>

Existing mapping shows the expected impacts on Top End communities for a series of major to extreme storm surge scenarios ranging from Highest Astronomical Tide to a 1 in 10,000 year storm occurrence. Storm Tide and Inundation studies should be repeated approximately every 10 years, however this would typically be instigated by DIPL as required for planning and infrastructure development purposes.