Coastal Futures CoLabs Pilot

Building climate resilience in Garden Island Sands

Natural Hazards Research Australia

HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

CMS
CENTRE FOR MARINE SOCIOECOLOGY

Lands and waters of the Melukerdee and
Lylequonny people of the South East Nation

The team

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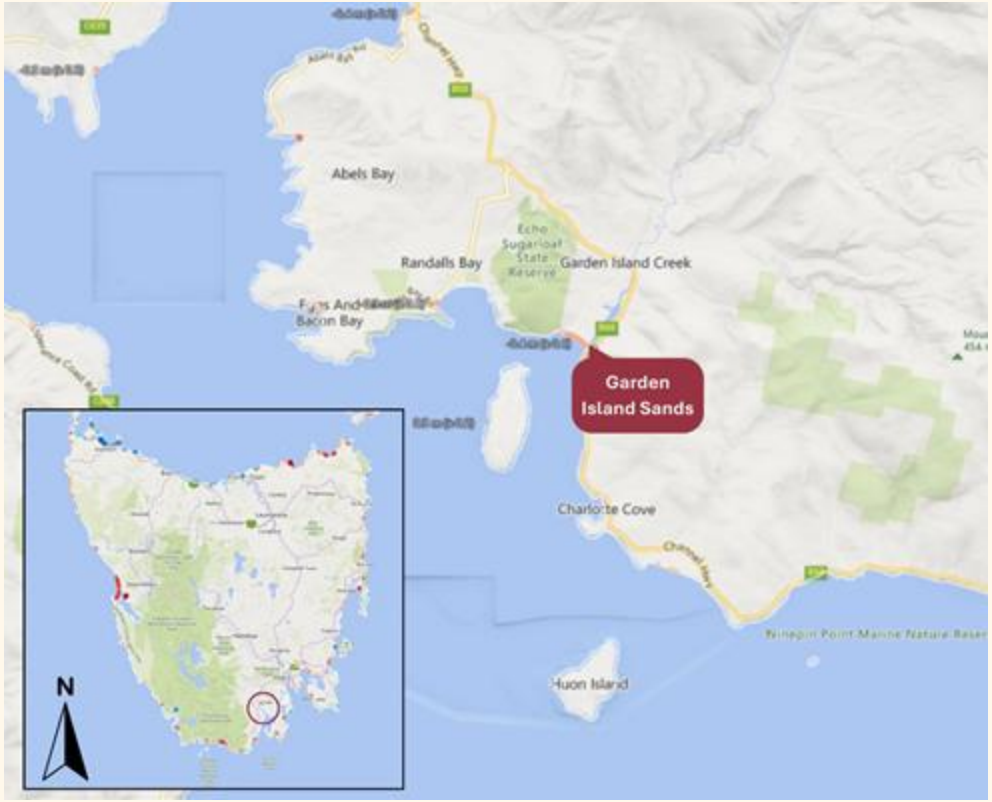
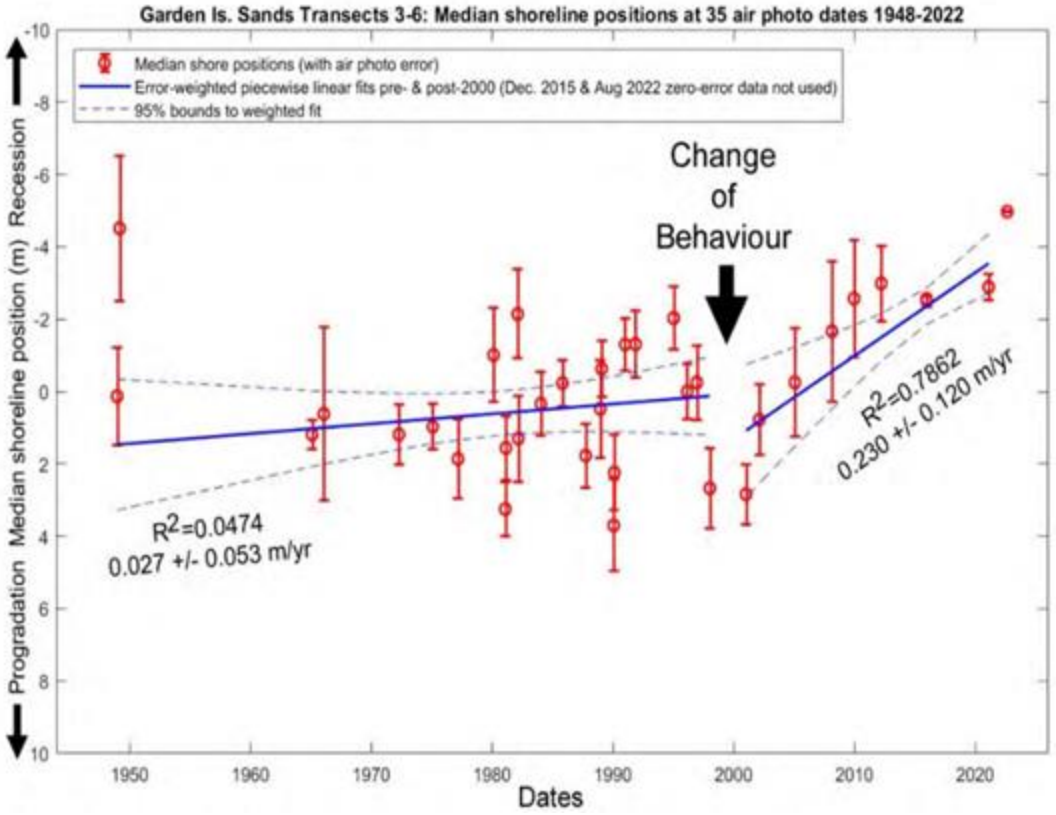
Impactful

Context


Abels Bay
Randalls Bay
Garden Island Creek
Bacon Bay
Garden Island Sands
Charlotte Cove
Huon Island
N

Context

Context



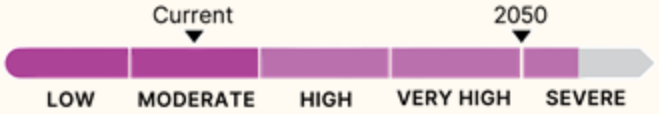
Source: Sharples, C., 2023. A Geomorphic Investigation of Shoreline Change at Garden Island Sands, Southern Tasmania.

Context

Communities – urban, regional and remote

Priority risk snapshot: Coastal communities and settlements

Risks to coastal communities from sea level rise, particularly where legacy and future planning and decision-making increases the exposure of settlements.



The problem

01
Ecology
Rapid Erosion

02
People &
Society
Makes people sad

03
Policy &
Governance
Government isn't ready

The solution

d'Hont, F.M., & Slinger, J.H. (2022). Including local knowledge in coastal policy innovation: comparing three Dutch case studies. Local Environment, 27(7), 897-914.

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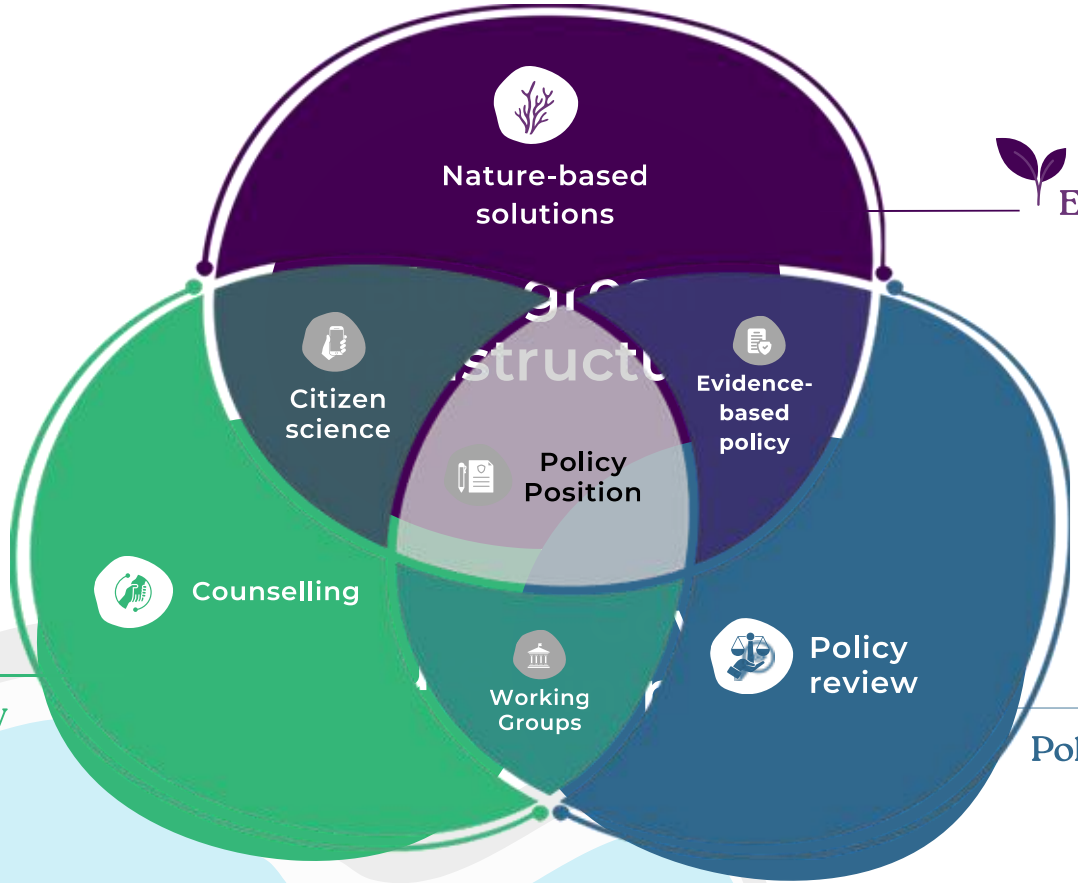


Ecology

People & Society

Policy & Governance

Innovation:

CoLabs Pilot approach

How our approach is different

1. Triple-infrastructure model

Simultaneously develops blue-green, social & governance infrastructure

2. Trauma-informed and place-based

Mental health and storytelling are central, not secondary

3. Policy-influencing from the ground up

Designed to scale, yet deeply rooted in a real local point (Garden Island Sands)

4. Replication pathway

Flexible that can be adapted in other LGAs across Tasmania and Australia, not one-size-fits-all

Credible: CoLabs Pilot structure

1

CoLab 1

November 2025

- Nature-based planting
- CoastSnap introduction
- Nature Connection recording
- Council conversations

2

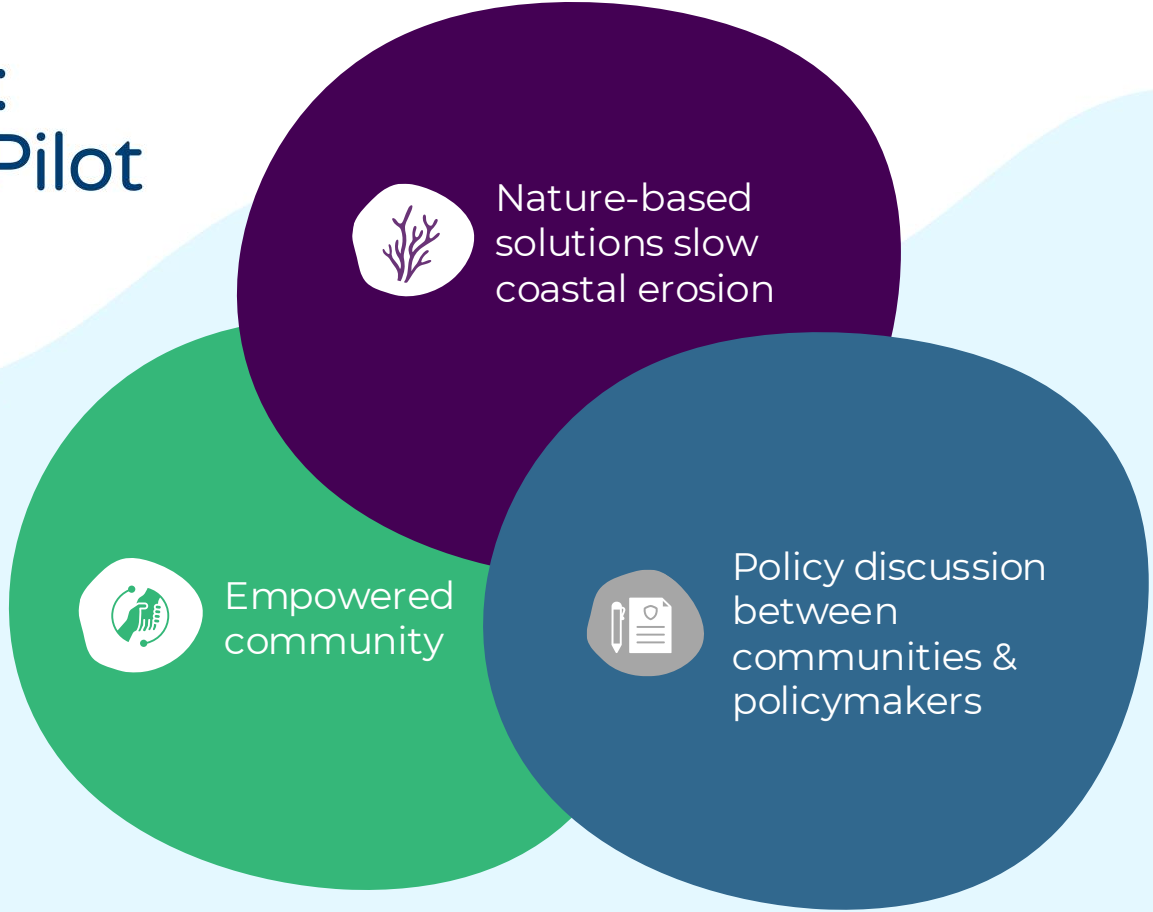
CoLab 2

February 2026

- Nature-based planting
- CoastSnap updates
- Climate anxiety workshop
- Policy presentation

3

Credible: CoLabs Pilot

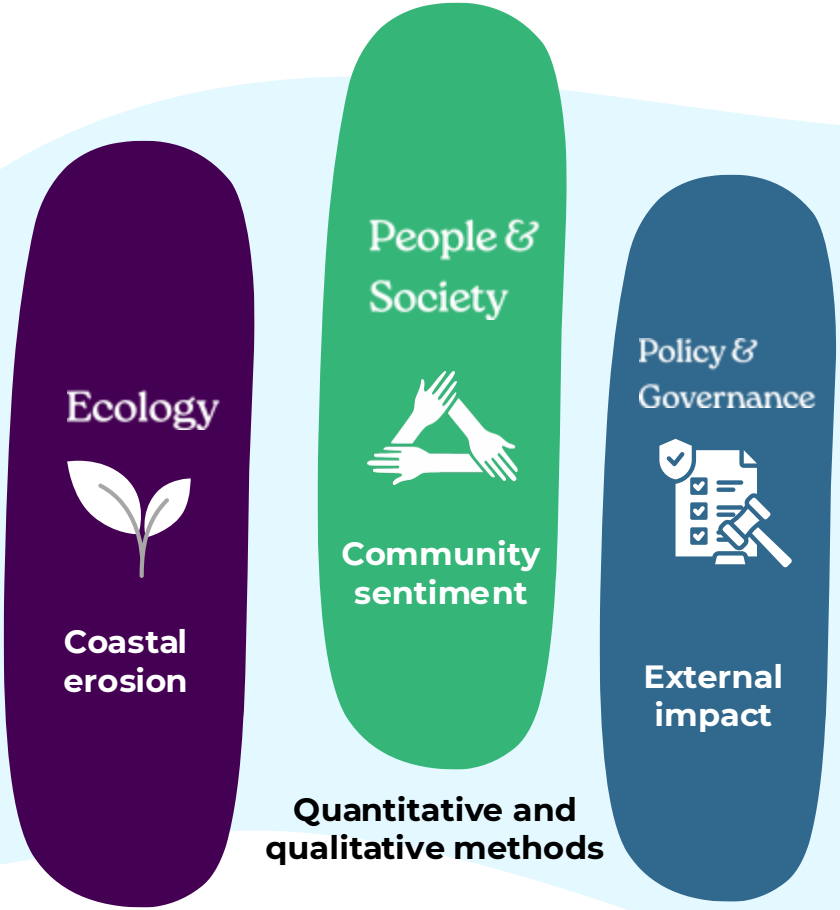


Effective:

CoLabs Pilot collaborations

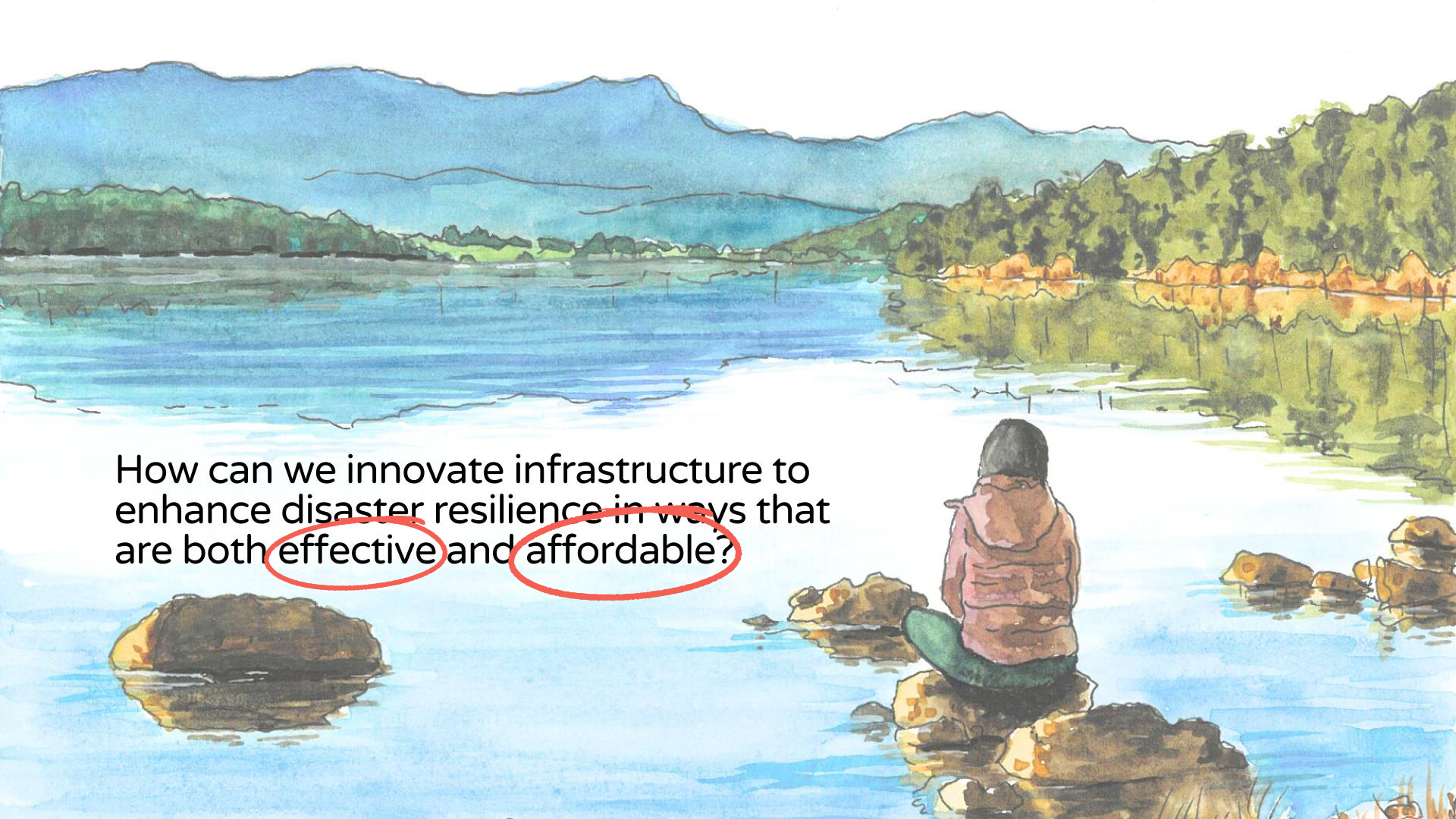
Effective:

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Improvement (MERI)



Expanding Coastal Future CoLabs across Australia

Source: Digital Earth Australia


How can we innovate infrastructure to enhance disaster resilience in ways that are both effective and affordable?

CIMS

HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

Friends of Garden Island Creek

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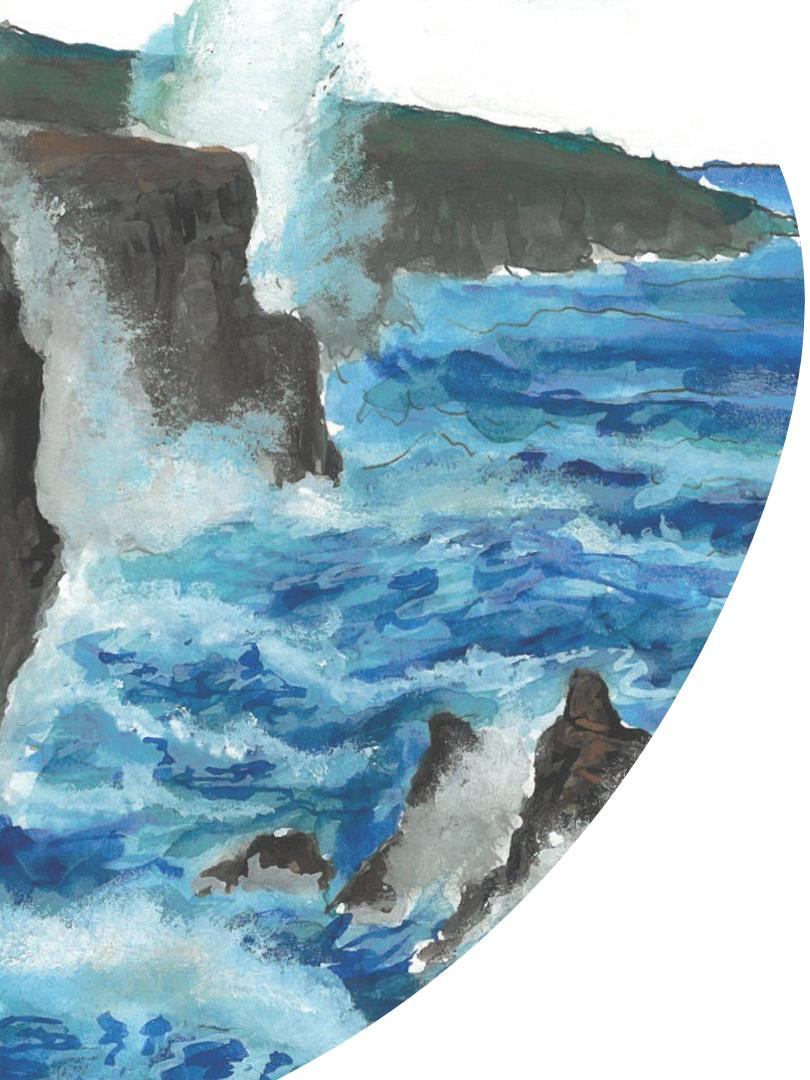

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Video by: MARCUS TURNBULL