

AGEING waterfront walls -- some of which have not been upgraded in 50 years -- are ticking time bombs, Gold Coast City Council lawyers have warned.

Waterfront living, a highly-prized feature of the Coast lifestyle, is fast becoming a liability, with growing reports of revetment wall failure and concerns about the risk of storm damage from poorly-secured jetties and pontoons.

The city has more than 400km of revetment walls, which experts say should be replaced every 30 years, at costs of up to \$120,000 for a medium-sized frontage.

Have your say on the feedback form below

Mayor Ron Clarke said recent storms had highlighted the need for tighter control of privately-owned revetment walls, jetties and pontoons.

A proposed local law would allow the council to enter private property to conduct emergency repairs or remove tumble-down waterfront infrastructure.

The repair bill would be charged to the landowner on threat of prosecution.

Cr Clarke said a minority of landowners were not maintaining their infrastructure, but the council was powerless to act.

"They're a great concern to us ... we can't make people do anything," said Cr Clarke.

"We can send them a show cause notice and ask them to do things, we politely have to ask them, but we can't move in.

"So what we want to do is get legislation so that we can protect 90 per cent of the good owners by taking action on the 10 per cent of people that don't look after their properties."

Your Say

"All property owners on the canals should be notified personally and kept up to date with Council rules re: revetment walls. A Council 'Hot line' could be created so all inquiries/concerns could be directed to appropriate departments. We have always found it difficult to contact someone who CAN give answers to concerns with revetment walls...especially those walls in older G.C. areas. After all, we do pay more in our rates for the privilege of owning a canal property."

Cawley Family

Cr Clarke said the damage done by secured jetties in Coomera during February's storms indicated the scale of the potential damage.

"The water flow picked them up and crashed them on to other people's boats and all sorts of things," he said.

Cr Clarke said the Coast's oldest canals were built in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach in the 1950s and 1960s.

In a report released last week, city solicitor David Montgomery said the council was not legally responsible for maintaining private waterfront infrastructure.

The council has adopted Mr Montgomery's recommendation to prepare the local law.

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