



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 84
Answered on 6th March, 2026
Fourth Meeting 2025-2026 Session – Third Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

HON. JOSEPH X. HEW
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF
GEORGE TOWN NORTH

TO

HON. KATHERINE EBANKS-WILKS
MINISTER OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister provide an update on the Government's plans to address the beach erosion on the southern end of Seven Mile Beach?

ANSWER:

Mister Speaker, Beach erosion at the southern end of Seven Mile Beach is a national concern. It affects public access and enjoyment of the shoreline, and it has wider implications for our tourism product, our natural environment, the livelihoods that depend on them and the quality of life for Caymanians and residents who enjoy the natural shoreline and beach setting.

The beach is a dynamic landscape that relies on the unrestricted movement and transport of sand along the coast and onto the beach. In some areas of Seven Mile Beach, the active beach has either been confined under structural foundations or eroded due to development encroachment and the installation of hard coastal structures, such as seawalls, on the active beach.

The most advanced interventions designed to address the beach erosion on the southern end of Seven Mile Beach are being led by responsible and innovative private sector stakeholders, supported and facilitated by Government through our established regulatory and technical review processes.

One proposal that is already in the public domain is the Marriott Grand Cayman's renourishment initiative, which includes the installation of two shallow groynes and the placement of imported sand to rebuild the beach profile. After years of research and months of planning, this initiative has progressed to the stage where a Coastal Works Licence application has been filed.

A second private-sector proposal is also progressing. However, as no formal coastal works application has yet been submitted to Government, it would be premature and inappropriate to disclose details in this Honourable House.

In both cases, the proponents have retained qualified coastal engineering expertise and have shared design options with Government for early technical engagement. Our role is to ensure that any solution is evidence-based, environmentally responsible, and compliant with the Coastal Works permitting regime, including appropriate consideration of coastal processes, marine impacts, and the public interest.

Government has provided feedback on the preliminary options and stands ready to process a formal application as soon as it is received.

Mister Speaker, the Government's approach to addressing beach erosion is to work in partnership with responsible private sector stakeholders to address this national issue. One such example is the initiative being led by the ownership and management of the Marriott Grand Cayman, where Government's role is to support well-designed and properly permitted renourishment efforts while ensuring that outcomes are sustainable and in the best interests of the Cayman Islands.