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LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS



The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Climate Change Water Environment and the Arts  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
PO Box 6021  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON COASTAL COMMUNITIES**  
**- Supplementary submission**

From a practical viewpoint, I would like to make some additional comments for you to consider in your final report/recommendations-

**Vulnerability Assessment**

There appears to be considerable work going on in this field, with DEM and various scenario modelling etc for the entire coastline of Australia. This work is undoubtedly necessary to fully and accurately quantify and document data.

However, if you were to ask a group of experts to do a "back of the envelope" assessment of the most vulnerable site in Australia in terms of total value of property, infrastructure, and beach dependent business at risk from sea level rise/storm surge, it will be the Gold Coast QLD.

You do not need to spend any research time or funds determining this.

**Strategies to deal with adaptation**

*"I would like to see us move very quickly from top-down impact oriented research to bottom-up adaptive research, because that is going to take resources and we want to be able to invest in the best way we can."*

Prof Will Steffen ANU, 23 Oct 2008.

I suggest the Gold Coast QLD (Gold Coast City Council/Griffith Centre for Coastal Management, Griffith University) is the logical place to focus federal investment in "bottom-up" adaptive research programs for "on the ground" solutions to the future impacts of sea level rise for the national benefit.

Regards



S R Barrett

Director

10 August 2009