
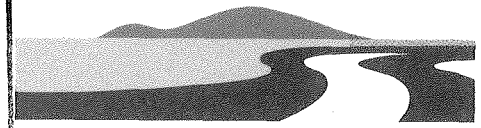


In Reply

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EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

Good Government, better living

29 May 2008

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Climate Change
Water, Environment and the Arts
House of Representatives
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CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Sir/Madam

INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Eurobodalla Shire Council welcomes the inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts and the potential implications on our coastal communities. As a local government region covering over 110 kilometres of coastline along the south east of New South Wales, the Council actively seeks support and clear advice and direction from the Federal Government on this matter.

The terms of reference for this inquiry are multi-faceted and broad. The impacts of climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities are critical to the long term management of the social, environment and economic facets of the region. Local Governments are seeking clear policy and direction from the Federal Government on these matters. The terms of reference indicate the inquiry will regard:

1. *Existing policies and programs, governance and institutional arrangements for the coastal zone management.*

There are multiple local, state and federal initiatives that support coastal management. Clear institutional guidelines are required with Federal and State Policy on climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities. Similar arrangements are required to clarify and rationalise monitoring and reporting (eg SOER) between the three levels of government.

2. *Environmental impacts of coastal population growth and mechanisms to promote sustainable use of coastal resources.*

There is vast research into the environmental impacts of population growth in coastal areas. Our coastal communities continue to be subjected to high levels of growth, high levels of visitation, tourism and associated infrastructure demands. The usage of coastal resources requires clear definition and coastal communities utilise resources from not only the coast but

from across the nation and internationally whereby they utilise and impact on resources. Reference is made to the collaborative research of the National Seachange Taskforce.

3. *Impact of climate change in coastal areas and strategies to deal with change particularly in response to projected sea level rise.*

Adaptation and mitigation are both mechanisms that need to be employed to deal with climate change. Local Government requires effective and socially acceptable mechanisms to sustain their coastal communities. The direction that is supported needs to be mandated by the Federal and State Governments. Active engagement with Local Government is required with financial, technical and professional resources and support aiding local government delivery of recognised mechanisms employed.

Some of the best longitudinal research undertaken of coastal/dunal systems on the east coast which may assist study of climate change, is available on Bengello Beach in Eurobodalla Shire.

4. *Mechanism to promote sustainable coastal communities*

Sustainability of communities is not restricted to coastal communities. The concept of sustainability is to be embedded in all communities and to be embraced institutionally. Coastal communities will be subjected to increasing population and natural resource pressures and this will be evidenced through rising sea levels, storm, flood and bushfire events, changing rainfall regimes and the potential impacts on our people & place. The increasing population pressures further exacerbate the impacts on coastal communities.

Eurobodalla Shire Council welcomes the opportunity to provide further input into the inquiry when required and invite members of the enquiry to consider the Shire as a case study. We also welcome clear policy and direction from the federal government on the issues and terms of reference.

Yours faithfully



LINDSAY USHER
GROUP MANAGER
DEVELOPMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES