



# Department of Sustainability & Environment

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20 July 2009

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

Submission No:	906
Date Received:	4/8/09
Secretary:	

**Re: Climate Change and Environmental Impacts on Coastal Communities –  
Risk Assessment, Victoria**

On Wednesday 20 May 2009 the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts, held a hearing in Victoria and was presented with a range of submissions including a joint submission from the Department of Planning and Community Development (Mr John Ginivan) and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (myself).

Two items were taken on notice: a request for a copy of the document *Planning for Coastal Climate Change, An insight into international and national approaches*; and a question regarding information on approaches to risk assessment in Victoria.

The above mentioned document prepared by Barbara Norman for DPCD and DSE under the Future Coasts banner has just recently been finalised and will be made available for wider circulation. A copy is attached.

Whilst there is some variation in methodologies used by agencies to assess risk, recent models developed to better understand the coastal impacts of climate change have drawn on both the national standard AS/NZS 4360:2004 and on national policy frameworks and risk methodologies. In this sense there is some degree of consistency but importantly there has also been modification of standardised methodologies to accommodate local circumstances and specific planning exercises.

The Victorian government, via the Future Coasts Program, is undertaking a scan and an analysis of available risk assessment tools and processes and examining how they have been implemented. As consistency of process and information sharing can directly contribute to development of collaborative adaptation planning responses, Future Coasts is considering the most appropriate risk analysis frameworks to assist in building capacity and consistency of assessment for both statutory and strategic planning. This builds on recent instruments advocating use of risk assessment in coastal planning processes, the General Practice Note *Managing Coastal Hazards and the Coastal Impacts of Climate Change* released by the Minister for Planning in conjunction with the State Planning Policy amendment following the release of the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008* by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

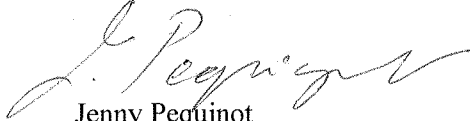
Preparation of methodologies for risk assessment could incorporate scope to develop and test scenarios (case studies) for development of risk based decision making criteria. It is also anticipated that broad ranging analysis and feedback



will be sought from technical specialists, local government, land managers and the many other coastal stakeholders.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Pequinot', written in black ink.

Jenny Pequinot  
Director Adaptation and Change  
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