



# Central Coastal BOARD



## About the Bays

The Newsletter of the Central Coastal Board

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Coastal Issues in Port Phillip and Western Port

### FROM THE CHAIR

With the current focus on institutional change it is important to remember that the changes are only affecting a small number of key government groups. There are a multitude of agencies and communities involved in coastal management and this edition looks at a few.

Focussing on where to go to for information on coastal climate change and starting at the national level there are an important range of organisations providing information, advice and opportunities to collaborate.

The Climate Change Council is chaired by Tim Flannery and is established to engage with communities and stakeholders to advise the Federal government on key issues. I recommend reading their preliminary report at <http://www.climatechange.gov.au>

Also at a national level, the National Sea Change Taskforce represents the interests of coastal councils and communities experiencing the effects of rapid growth and development. It hosts an annual national conference, has commissioned significant research and has strongly advocated for federal implementation of the recommendations of the George Report on *Managing our coastal zone in a changing climate: The time to act is now*. See [www.seachangetaskforce.org.au](http://www.seachangetaskforce.org.au)

The Australian Coastal Society is led by Professor Bruce Thom and is another national body formed to promote knowledge and understanding of the need to improve coastal planning and management in Australia. It has a useful website for news of current events and reports related to the coast and climate change. It is eager to recruit members from Victoria. See [www.australiancoastalsociety.org](http://www.australiancoastalsociety.org)

Oz Coasts is the website to go for comprehensive information and science-based studies about Australia's coast, including its estuaries, coastal waterways and climate change impacts. Visit [www.ozcoasts.org.au](http://www.ozcoasts.org.au)

In Victoria key government agencies involved in coastal climate change are DSE's Future Coasts and the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

The Association of Bayside Municipalities, an association of the 10 coastal councils with frontage to Port Phillip Bay, is active as a voice of local government in relation to the sustainable management and health of the bay. They have a website at [www.abmonline.asn.au](http://www.abmonline.asn.au)

There are also many stakeholder groups that provide valuable input as advocates for sustainability in coastal planning and management, for example, the Victorian National Parks Association who is currently promoting the extension of marine protected areas.

For our part, the CCB seeks to support information flow on coastal planning and management, climate change and planning tools that address the associated risks. I welcome hearing from you on initiatives or projects your organisation is involved in that address climate change. Our next newsletter will look at coastal climate change action at the local level.

**Liz Johnstone**  
Chair

### CURRENT PROJECTS

#### Western Port Welcomes Waterbirds Update

The CCB coordinates this Caring for our Country funded project which is fast approaching its second year or the halfway mark. A separate newsletter has been prepared providing an overview of the findings of the past 12 months and informing the community of new activities.

It is available on the CCB website at <http://www.ccb.vic.gov.au/waterbirds.html>

## AROUND THE COAST

### Planning permit refusal

The Planning Minister and Environment and Climate Change Minister jointly announced the refusal of a permit application for residential development on the Port Fairy coastline to prevent inappropriate development on land that is at risk from erosion and climate change impacts. See the media release at <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/component/content/article/9559.html>

### United Nations Association of Australia – World Environment Day Awards

The CCB is assisting with the judging of the award for excellence in marine and coastal management as part of the UNAA World Environment Day Awards, for which nominations closed on 14 May. This is a national awards program seeking to recognise work undertaken to protect, manage or restore the environment. Visit [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au) for information.

### Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2010

The winners of the 2010 Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence were announced on 29 April by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Gavin Jennings. Hosted by the Victorian Coastal Council, there were 16 finalists across six categories.

In particular, congratulations go to former Western Coastal Board Chairman, Lynn Murrell, who was the winner of the Outstanding Individual Achievement award, who you may recall, in 2005, drew attention to coastal issues by walking the entire Victorian coastline.

Other winners were Williamstown High School's innovative "Williamstown Wetlands" project, Corangamite CMA and Southern Otway Landcare Network for protecting the estuaries of the Southern Otways, the City of Greater Geelong with a sustainable boat ramp facility and Phillip Island Nature Park for its Coastal Ambassador Program.

See a complete list of the winners and finalists at <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/component/content/article/10162.html>

## CLIMATE CHANGE – STATE INITIATIVES

### Future Coasts Update

There are a number of things happening with the Future Coasts Program.

1. **Impacts and Responses Paper** – the draft paper will be available for consultation by mid-2010. This paper is aimed at defining the key impacts and policy responses, including new initiatives, to climate change impacts, sea level rise and extreme storm events on the coast.
2. **Victorian Coastal Climate Change Hazard Guidelines** – SKM has been selected to develop guidelines to support a consistent approach to plan for and manage coastal hazards and the impacts of climate change. Stakeholder groups will have the opportunity to provide input throughout the project which aims to be finalised by the end of the year.
3. **Fact Sheets for CSIRO Technical Reports** – fact sheets are now available that provide an overview of the CSIRO reports on the effect of climate change on extreme sea levels in Port Phillip Bay and the Victorian coast. These reports show the projected levels that storm tides will reach at selected locations for 2030, 2070 and 2100.
4. **Bathymetric DEM Data** – the bathymetric DEM for the Victorian coastline, that is, the topography of the sea floor, is currently being integrated with the topographic DEM to produce one dataset.
5. **LIDAR Marine Habitat Mapping Project** – contractors Worley Parsons and Deakin University are scheduled to complete the LiDAR Marine Mapping by mid-2010. This project is using the bathymetric DEM and seafloor reflectance dataset to predict underwater habitat distributions for more than 4000 km<sup>2</sup> of Victorian coastal waters.
6. **Local Climate Change Assessments** – the Minister for Environment and Climate Change recently announced \$1m of funding for local coastal climate change assessments at the municipal or settlement level.

Further information on these projects and initiatives can be found at the Future Coasts website:

[www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/futurecoasts](http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/futurecoasts)

### Coastal Climate Change Advisory Committee

The Coastal Climate Change Advisory Committee was established to consider how planning on the coast in Victoria currently operates and whether it can meet the state's needs into the future as the impacts of climate change increase in rate and intensity.

The Committee will advise the Minister for Planning on how Victoria's land-use planning and development controls can best support the Victorian Government's policy for managing the coastal impacts of climate change.

As part of its review, the Advisory Committee has prepared an Issues and Options Paper to stimulate discussion.

 [CCCAC Issues Paper Exec Summary \(PDF - 166 KB\)](#)

 [CCCAC Issues Paper Main Report \(PDF - 2.1 MB\)](#)

The Committee has invited submissions to the Issues and Options Paper and will organise workshops and a hearing to consider the submissions and determine the appropriate responses.

### VPELA Report

The DPCD commissioned the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (VPELA) to prepare a briefing paper to assist the Advisory Committee prepare its discussion paper.

The briefing paper provides a thorough overview of the legal issues that arise in the context of climate change affecting coastal locations. It is available at [VPELA Briefing Paper \(PDF - 1.0 MB\)](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Australian Marine Science Association Conference, 4-8 July 2010, Wollongong

The primary goal of AMSA is to advance marine science and its understanding in Australia. The annual conference will be held in July 2010 in Wollongong.

Thematic sessions will cover many areas of marine science such as impacts of climate change, assessment and management of marine protected areas, coastal oceanography and marine biogeography. Visit

<https://www.amsa.asn.au/conference/conf2010>

### Coast to Coast 2010 – Actions for Change 20-24 September 2010, Adelaide

The 2010 Coast to Coast national coastal management conference is being held in Adelaide and provides an excellent opportunity for everyone with an interest in coastal, estuarine and marine matters to share knowledge and experiences on management, science, policy, governance, activism and many other topics.

For more information: [www.coast2coast.org.au](http://www.coast2coast.org.au)

### Practical Responses to Climate Change 29 September to 1 October 2010, Melbourne

This conference will provide a forum for presenting responses to climate change within the water sector with particular emphasis on recent climate change science and impact research, vulnerability assessment techniques and adaptation strategies. It will be an opportunity for engineers, scientists, planners and academics to present and debate current and future practices for adapting to changes in our environment from the catchment to the coast. For more information: [www.climatechange2010.org](http://www.climatechange2010.org)

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