2024 AUSTRALIAN COASTAL COUNCILS CONFERENCE

Held at the McLaren Function Centre, McLaren Vale, SA

Wednesday 29 to Friday 31 May 2024

CONFERENCE REPORT

10 June 2024

CONTACT DETAILS:

Email: info@coastalcouncils.org.au

Web: www.coastalcouncils.org.au/conference

Tel: 0418 254 132

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

The Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc. would like to acknowledge the interest and support of the City of Onkaparinga and the South Australian Coast Protection Board for the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference.

CITY OF ONKAPARINGA

Government of South Australia
Coast Protection Board

The Association would also like to thank those who provided on-going advice in the event planning:

- Nina Keath, City of Onkaparinga
- Dr Nicole Pelton, Department for Environment and Water
- Michael Arman, SA Climate Ready Coasts Program and BRM Advisory.

SUMMARY

The 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference was convened by the Australian Coastal Councils Association at The McLaren Vale Function Centre, McLaren Vale, South Australia from 29 to 31 May 2024. It was attended by representatives of coastal councils from all states, in addition to members of the coastal research community and representatives of relevant government agencies. Highlights of the 2024 conference included the following:

The IPCC AR6 Sea-level Rise Projections – Dr Kathleen McInnes is a post-retirement fellow in CSIRO's Climate Science Centre. In this presentation she provided an outline of the latest IPCC sea-level rise projections.

Short-term Rentals in Urban and Coastal Communities: Impacts and Policy Responses – Presentation by Nicole Gurran, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, at The University of Sydney. Professor Gurran released the interim findings of a new study which updates and extends the landmark research report, *Planning responses to online short-term holiday rental platforms*, which was released in 2018.

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority – Presentation by Ms. Libby Mears, Chair of The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority on a new model of coastal management.

South Australia's Climate Ready Coasts Program – Presentations by Michael Arman, Program Manager, SA Climate Ready Coasts Program, and Annabel Sandery, of the engineering services firm HATCH, on the SA Climate Ready Coasts Program, a collaboration between state and local government aimed at progressing best-practice coastal hazard adaptation planning in South Australia.

Coastal Research Infrastructure Australia – Presentation by Associate Professor Daniel Ierodiaconou, of School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University, on a proposal by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy, to invest in coastal research infrastructure.

Economic Impacts from Sea-level Rise and Storm Surge in Victoria over the 21st Century - Presentation by Jacquie White, Deputy Chair of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council on a landmark research report examining the implications of sea-level rise in Victoria by 2100.

Coastal Roundtable – Mornington March 2024 – Presentation on a Victorian coastal council roundtable organized in response to projected sea-level rise impacts by 2100. Presented by Cr Sarah Race, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Cr Michael Whelan, Bass Coast Shire Council, and Cr Darah Gilligan, South Gippsland Shire Council.

Development of the National Adaptation Plan – Dr Murray Townsend, Assistant Director, Climate Change Policy Adaptation and Risk Division, DCCEEW.

Coastal Policy Forum – Delegates considered priority coastal issues and proposed future directions at a coastal policy forum held on Friday 31 May. The delegates, representing coastal councils and other coastal stakeholders from around Australia, subsequently endorsed the need for key initiatives set out in the McLaren Vale Communiqué, which is included in the following pages.

A copy of the final program for the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference is provided in the following pages, together with additional information on the presentations made at the event.

2024 AUSTRALIAN COASTAL COUNCILS CONFERENCE

McLaren Vale Function Centre, 29-31 May 2024

MCLAREN VALE COMMUNIQUÉ

Preamble

In May 2024, the Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc. consulted with delegates attending the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference at McLaren Vale, South Australia, to identify issues of current concern to councils in Australia's coastal areas. The priority issues and proposed future directions were presented at the Conference. The delegates, representing coastal councils and other coastal stakeholders from around Australia, endorsed the need for the following key initiatives.

Communiqué

We call on the Australian, State and Territory Governments to work with local government to urgently develop a coordinated national response to coastal climate risks and other hazards, including rising sea levels, more severe extreme weather events and widespread coastal erosion.

National Coastal Adaptation Fund

Australia's coastal councils and communities acknowledge and welcome the Australian Government's 2022 establishment of the Disaster Ready Fund, which provides up to $200 million a year to fund natural disaster resilience and risk reduction over five years from 2023-24. However, we believe this is not sufficient to meet the projected demand for effective coastal adaptation and risk reduction actions at a national scale over the course of this century and beyond. We therefore call on the Australian Government, in collaboration with the States and Territories, to establish an ongoing National Coastal Adaptation Fund administered by a National Coastal Adaptation Working Group reporting to the National Emergency Management Ministers and Planning Ministers. The role of the Working Group would include:

- Integrating coastal governance arrangements between the three tiers of government.
- developing and implementing a national program to coordinate coastal adaptation planning.
- acknowledging and integrating the coastal adaptation knowledge and cultural connections of First Nations people.
- maintaining up to date, standardised hazard data collection, analysis and accessibility.
- implementing disaster resilience actions to mitigate the increasing risks associated with projected sea level rise, storm surge and more frequent and severe extreme weather events.
- adopting an evidence-based approach to the economic implications of delaying action to manage sea level rise, storm surge and other coastal hazards.
- developing a framework and tools to address coastal planning issues beyond 2100, including retreat, insurance, and avoiding the placement of assets at risk of inundation, and
- allocating significant funding for ocean and shoreline research, including Nationally coordinated sustained observing and modelling".

The scale of dealing effectively with coastal hazards along Australia's vast coastline requires a national approach, national leadership and national funding, recognising that 50% of Australians live within 7kms of the coast.

We therefore call on the Australian Government to consider appointing a Minister for Coasts and to play a lead role in addressing these challenges in consultation with the States and Territories and local government authorities, which are committed to engaging with the science and have extensive practical experience in responding to coastal hazards.

We are ready and keen to work collaboratively with the Australian, State and Territory governments to respond to these hazards.

Friday, 31 May 2024

2024 AUSTRALIAN COASTAL COUNCILS CONFERENCE

FINAL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY- CONFERENCE DAY ONE

09:00	GREETING TO SPIRIT OF PLACE Kaurna Cultural Leader, Karl Winda Telfer
09.10	WELCOME TO CONFERENCE Cr Sharon Cadwallader - Chair, Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc., Mayor, Ballina Shire Council
09:15	WELCOME TO CITY OF ONKAPARINGA and OFFICIAL CONFERENCE OPENING Mayor Moira Were, City of Onkaparinga
09.25	THE IPCC AR6 SEA-LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS Dr Kathleen McInnes, CSIRO Post-Retirement Fellow
10:00	THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS AUTHORITY – A NEW MODEL OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT. Presented by Ms Libby Mears, Chair, The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.
10:30	*Morning tea*
11.00	SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE READY COASTS PROGRAM Michael Arman – Program Manager, SA Climate Ready Coasts Program - will present an overview of the SA Climate Ready Coasts Program, a collaboration between state and local government which aims to progress best-practice coastal hazard adaptation planning in South Australia. Annabel Sandery, of the global engineering services firm, HATCH will provide an outline of the Foundations Project, the major undertaking in Year 1 of the Program, which includes the results of nation-wide benchmarking of approaches to coastal hazard adaptation planning.
11:45	COASTAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA – Daniel Ierodiaconou, Associate Professor, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University outlines a proposal by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy to invest in coastal research infrastructure to gain a better understanding of climate change implications for Australia's coasts.
12:10	NATURE-BASED RESPONSE TO BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCE THROUGH ARTIFICAL REEFS AT RAMBLERS AND THE DELL BEACH, BELLARINE PENINSULA, VICTORIA - Ralph Roob, Senior Strategic Environmental Planner, City of Greater Geelong. The City has established two semi-submersible breakwaters in the form of artificial reefs with the aim of stabilising the shoreline. The City has partnered with The University of Melbourne to design and implement a monitoring program which aims to assess geomorphic change and marine community colonisation as well as the effectiveness of shellfish seeding trials.
12:35	*Lunch*
13.15	COASTAL FIELD TOUR - PROTECTING AND REGENERATING OUR COASTLINE WITH MODERN AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Field tour of the City of Onkaparinga coastal region

Kaurna Cultural Leader, Karl Telfer, was joined by coastal adaptation experts Mark Western, Integrated Coasts and Michael Arman BRM Advisory and council staff Ben Moulton, Natural Asset Planner, Jock Conlon, Coordinator Natural Area Conservation, Nina Keath, Team Leader Sustainability and Salvador Jurado, Coastal Asset Planner to share how City of Onkaparinga has been drawing upon modern science and technology, first nations knowledge, coastal adaptation planning, community engagement and inter-governmental partnerships to protect coastal assets from climate risks, regenerate precious biodiversity and care for country.

CONFERENCE DAY ONE CONCUDES

18:00 WELCOME RECEPTION – McLaren Vale Function Centre

THURSDAY 30 MAY - CONFERENCE DAY TWO

09.00	BUILDING A RESILIENT AUSTRALIA – Kylie Macfarlane, Chief Operating Officer, Insurance Council of Australia. Presentation on insurance affordability & availability in a changing climate, including reference to latest insurance industry research.
09.30	ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM SEA LEVEL RISE AND STORM SURGE IN VICTORIA OVER THE 21ST CENTURY – Presented by Jacquie White, Deputy Chair, Victorian Marine and Coastal Council.
10.00	CoastAdapt WEB PLATFORM - Anne Leitch, Research Fellow CoastAdapt NCCARF, Griffith University. The CoastAdapt web platform, was developed by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility in 2014-2017 with Federal Funding as a resource to assist coastal councils to undertake coastal adaptation projects. The platform is currently being updated with new federal funding (2023-2024) with legacy information revised to reflect recent advances in coastal adaptation and new sections developed to reflect the expanding needs of the coastal adaptation community.
10:30	Morning tea
11:00	SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN URBAN AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES: IMPACTS AND POLICY RESPONSES – Nicole Gurran, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Sydney. Release of the interim findings of a new study by The University of Sydney, which updates and extends the landmark research report, Planning responses to online short-term holiday rental platforms, which was released in 2018. Includes case studies.
11:30	STATE BASED INITIATIVES BY COUNCILS TO RESPOND TO COASTAL RISKS – Including the Coastal Roundtable organised by Victoria's coastal councils in response to projected sea level rise impacts by 2100. Presented by Cr Sarah Race , Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Cr Michael Whelan, Bass Coast Shire Council and Cr Sarah Gilligan, South Gippsland Shire Council.
12.00	A CASE STUDY OF COASTAL ADAPTATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Mark Western, Integrated Coasts. A review of approaches to coastal adaptation from projects across South Australia's metropolitan and regional communities.
12:30	Lunch
13.30	WORKSHOP - SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN URBAN AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES: Professor Nicole Gurran, The University of Sydney
15:00	Afternoon tea
15.30	WORKSHOP - COASTAL MANAGEMENT SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL COASTAL HEALTH REPORT – Dale Watson, Senior Environment Project Officer, Sunshine Coast Council. The Coastal Health Report is the first coast-wide assessment of the environmental condition and use of the Sunshine Coast beaches, headlands, lower estuaries and coastal lagoons. EASING THE SQUEEZE: A CASE STUDY IN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ON BEACHES – Nigel Smith, Lead – Coastal Management, Shoalhaven City Council. The management of stormwater on beaches can be a complex challenge for

coastal managers across Australia. This case study provides an example of a novel approach to a common and enduring issue on NSW beaches.

INNOVATIVE SEAWALL DESIGN OPTIONS – Nat Patterson, Principal Coastal Engineer, Royal HaskoningDHV, presents an outline of innovative seawall designs to meet the unique challenges of different coastal locations.

17:00 CONFERENCE DAY TWO CONCLUDES

CONFERENCE DINNER - The Kitchen at Bec Hardy, McLaren Vale

FRIDAY 31 MAY - CONFERENCE DAY THREE

09.00	DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN – Dr Murray Townsend, Assistant Director, Climate Change Policy, Adaptation and Risk Division, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
09:30	CONFERENCE REVIEW - PANEL DISCUSSION
10:00	COASTAL POLICY FORUM Session to identify coastal policy priorities facilitated by Mayor Moira Were of the City of Onkaparinga.
10:30	*Morning tea*
11:00	FINAL SESSION AND 2024 CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUÉ Facilitated discussion to consider adoption of the 2024 Conference Communiqué
12:00	CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Conference Opening - Speech by Sharon Cadwallader, Chair, Australian Coastal Councils Association and Mayor, Ballina Shire Council (NSW)

Mayor Moira Were AM of the City of Onkaparinga,
Elected representatives and officers of coastal councils from around Australia
Representatives of government agencies,
Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Australian Coastal Councils Association, to welcome you to the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference. Each year this event provides an opportunity to hear about the many projects and developments that are of specific interest to coastal councils and their communities. And this year is no exception.

One of the highlights of this conference is the release tomorrow of the interim findings of a new study by a research team at The University of Sydney which looks at the impacts and potential planning responses to the increase in short-term holiday rental properties in urban and coastal communities.

This is an update to a significant study we commissioned back in 2017, which was also conducted by Professor Nicole Gurran and her team of researchers at The University of Sydney. That first study was aimed at providing guidance to councils on the options available for responding to the rapid growth in listings on platforms such as Airbnb and Stayz. There have been substantial changes in the short-term rental market since that first study was carried out, and it will be of interest to hear the recommendations by the research team on how to deal with them.

The other area that is critical to coastal councils is the science of climate change. And shortly we'll be hearing from Dr Kathleen McInnes, one of Australia's leading experts on sea-level rise, who will be bringing us up to date on the latest sea level rise projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. These projections have major implications for the insurance sector, and tomorrow we will hear from the Insurance Council of Australia's Chief Operating Officer, Kylie Macfarlane, who will provide an outline of the effects climate impacts are having on insurance affordability and availability.

We will also have a presentation by Dr Murray Townsend, a senior officer of the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on a government program called the National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan, which is aimed at strengthening Australia's capacity to prepare for and respond to climate risks.

The first pass of the National Climate Risk Assessment has identified 11 priority risks facing Australia and the National Adaptation Plan will establish a comprehensive framework for adapting to these nationally significant, physical climate risks.

We'll also be hearing about initiatives to develop nature-based solutions to mitigate coastal hazards, which are currently being implemented in various locations around Australia.

In an important session on the final day of the event we will come together to develop a conference communique, which is aimed at developing key policy proposals as an outcome of this conference. Our aim is to develop better management of the coast, closer

collaboration between the three levels of government, and urgent action to protect our communities.

At this point I would like to say a word or two about the way in which this conference is structured and how the Association goes about organising our events. Those of you who have attended our conference in previous years know it is not one of the largest events on the conference calendar, some of which have speakers jammed together at 10 or 12 minute intervals. Rather, we are very selective in framing the conference program. Our aim is to showcase the current state of knowledge in coastal planning and management and where possible link the presentations under relevant themes.

One other point of difference – over the years we have attracted a number of delegates who make a point of meeting at this conference and sharing notes on the coastal issues they are facing in their local area. It's as though we are meeting up with good friends. I for one look forward to catching up with the familiar faces around the room over the next couple of days and I know many others feel the same way.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the support we have received from the City of Onkaparinga and the South Australian Coast Protection Board, which are both providing substantial support to the staging of this event. I would like to specifically acknowledge:

Mayor Moira Were AM and her fellow councillors of the City of Onkaparinga
Chief Executive Officer Phu Nguyen, of the City of Onkaparinga
Dr Nicole Pelton, SA Department of Environment and Water
Nina Keath, Team Leader Sustainability, City of Onkaparinga
Michael Arman, Program Manager, SA Climate Ready Coasts Program

And all the other officers who have provided such strong support in planning and preparing for the event. It is very sincerely appreciated.

This is an important year for our Association. It is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the organisation and provides us with an opportunity to look back over some of our achievements over this time. One of our main achievements, I believe, is the way in which we have helped to place coastal issues firmly on the national political agenda.

The Australian coast is one of our most highly valued social, economic, and environmental assets yet it is under increasing threat from a complex range of hazards and climate risks. These are matters which are now the subject of intense scientific study and government action at Federal, state, territory and local government level which is aimed at safeguarding the coast in the long term from the inevitable impacts of climate change, more frequent and severe extreme weather events, and widespread coastal erosion and sea level rise. I firmly believe our advocacy over the years has helped to make this happen.

The latest example of the innovative work we have been undertaking is the study of the impacts and responses to the growth of short-term holiday rental listings in urban and coastal areas which I mentioned earlier. This is recognised as a world-leading research project, conducted by a team of expert researchers at The University of Sydney.

Finally, to those of you who have joined us here today - I welcome each and every one of you. I look forward to catching up with those who have attended previous conferences. But equally, I look forward to meeting those of you who are attending for the first time.

I invite you to share your ideas and experiences with one other as we work together to find sustainable solutions to the complex challenges facing our coastal communities. Thank you for joining us and I'm confident you will find the time that you spend with us over the next few days will be of real value and benefit.

We were to be joined this morning by Deputy Premier, Dr Susan Close, who was going to officially open the Conference, but she has unfortunately come down with Covid, so sends her apologies. We wish her a speedy recovery.

So, at this point, it gives me great pleasure to call on Mayor Moira Were, Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga, to welcome you to the City and to officially open the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference.

Welcome to the City of Onkaparinga and Official Opening of the 2024 Conference – Speech by Moira Were AM, Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here today to the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference.

It is wonderful to see so many passionate Mayors, elected members and staff, including state government representatives from across Australia.

A warm welcome to the City of Onkaparinga and I look forward to connecting and sharing knowledge and ideas with you all over the coming days.

I would like to acknowledge Deputy Premier Susan Close, who would have been here to open the conference but has sadly come down with COVID.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Australian Coastal Councils Association on its 20th Anniversary. As founding members of the association, it is very special for us to be hosting the conference on this milestone birthday year.

We are very proud of our stunning coastline and look forward to sharing our region's unique coastal attributes with a national audience. We also look forward to showcasing our work in coastal adaptation, biodiversity and conservation and learning from Kaurna cultural leader Karl Telfer during the bus tour later today.

I take this opportunity to launch the City's Coastal Adaptation Plan which is hot off the press having been adopted by Council just last week. This plan outlines how the City will manage changes to our coastline over the next seven years, including how we will respond to the impacts of sea level rise and climate change. There are printed copies at the back of the room, and I encourage you to take one and have a read.

We are very proud of this evidence-based plan, which was developed with extensive community engagement, identifies risks, and proposes responses aligned with scientific research and community values. But the plan also highlights the urgent need for a joint approach to coastal adaptation from all tiers of government. Councils alone cannot fund the full range of measures that are required now and into the future. We certainly can't fund all the actions in this plan on our own.

The Australian coastline is a crucial social, economic, and environmental asset, and as our plan shows, it's facing increasing threats from extreme weather events, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise.

Coastal councils are at the frontline of managing these risks but lack the necessary resources and national framework to address them effectively. That's why the Australian Coastal Councils Association is such an important forum. Together, we have been calling for the creation of a National Coastal Adaptation Fund and a National Coastal Adaptation Working Group.

As one of the founding members of the organisation we have formed a strong collaborative relationship with the Association. For example, the Association recently helped shape our successful motion to last year's Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly calling for greater federal support for coastal adaptation.

Right from its inception, the Association has commissioned ground-breaking coastal research, some of which you will learn about at this conference. And over the years we have found the Association has played a leading role in advocating for coastal policy initiatives, such as the $50 million Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program and the $1 billion Disaster Ready Fund by the Australian Government in 2022, providing up to $200 million annually for natural disaster resilience.

These are welcome steps but fall short of meeting the requirements for successful coastal adaptation on a national scale. On the Friday morning of this conference, it will be my great pleasure to facilitate a Coastal Policy Forum where we can work together to identify the key issues that we believe need to be identified in the conference communique and which will guide the Association's future policy agenda.

Throughout the conference, I am sure that you will have conversations or hear presentations that prompt ideas and thoughts. You will see that there are big sticky notes on the back walls under various themes and I encourage you to start sharing your ideas throughout the conference. Friday will be our opportunity to bring these ideas all together.

Finally, if you have any questions about the City or you need guidance to local facilities, please let us know. We would be delighted to help.

I now declare this conference officially open!

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

PPT presentations made at the conference are now available at the Australian Coastal Councils Association web site - https://www.coastalcouncils.org.au

CONFERENCE DAY ONE – Wednesday 29 May 2024

Explaining the IPCC AR6 Sea-level Rise Projections
Dr Kathleen McInnes, CSIRO Post-Retirement Fellow, outlined recent trends in sea-level rise and indicated that the rate of sea level rise is increasing, and increases under all future scenarios.

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority – A New Model of Coastal Management

Ms Libby Mears, Chair of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, explained that the establishment of the Authority represents a paradigm shift in governance. She summarised the history and role of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority and the challenges the Authority is addressing.

South Australia's Climate Ready Coasts Program

Michael Arman, Program Manager, SA Climate Ready Coasts Program, and **Annabel Sandery**, of engineering services firm, HATCH, presented an overview of the Program, which is a collaboration between state and local government which aims to progress best practice coastal hazard adaptation planning in South Australia.

Coastal Research Infrastructure Australia

Daniel Ierodiaconou, Associate Professor, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University, outlined a proposal by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy to invest in coastal research infrastructure to gain a better understanding of climate change implications for Australia's coasts.

Nature-based Response to Building Coastal Resilience through Artificial Reefs at Ramblers and the Dell Beach, Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria

Ralph Roob, Senior Strategic Environmental Planner at the City of Greater Geelong, described two semi-submersible breakwaters in the form of artificial reefs with the aim of stabilising the shoreline.

Coastal Field Tour – Protecting and Regenerating our Coastline with Modern and Traditional Knowledge – A field tour of the City of Onkaparinga coastal region was conducted on the afternoon of Wednesday 29 May. The tour was led by Kaurna Cultural Leader, Karl Telfer, together with coastal adaptation experts Mark Western, of Integrated Coasts, and Michael Arman of BRM Advisory, and relevant council staff. The tour demonstrated how the City of Onkaparinga has been drawing upon modern science and technology, first nation's knowledge, coastal adaptation planning, community engagement and inter-governmental partnerships to protect its coastal assets from climate risks, regenerate precious biodiversity and care for country.

CONFERENCE DAY TWO – Thursday 30 May 2024

Building a Resilient Australia

Kylie Macfarlane, Chief Operating Officer of the Insurance Council of Australia, considered questions such as whether coastal property owners will be able to get insurance cover in the future if they are located in a high-risk area, and if so, how affordable will it be?

Economic Impacts from Sea-level Rise and Storm Surge in Victoria over the 21st Century

Jacquie White, Deputy Chair of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council, outlined the findings of a research report released in July 2013 which found that by 2100 the impact of sea level rise and storm surge are projected to cause an economic loss of $442 billion along the Victorian coastline

CoastAdapt Web Platform
Anne Leitch, Research Fellow, CoastAdapt NCCARF, at Griffith University, provided an outline of how the CoastAdapt Web Platform is being updated with legacy information revised to reflect recent advances in coastal adaptation and new sections are being developed to meet the expanding needs of the coastal adaptation community. The web platform was developed in 2014-17 with Federal funding as a resource to assist coastal councils to undertake coastal adaptation projects.

Short-term Rentals in Urban and Coastal Communities: Impacts and Policy Responses
Nicole Gurran, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, at The University of Sydney, released the interim findings of a new study by The University of Sydney, which updates and extends the landmark research report, *Planning responses to online short-term holiday rental platforms*, which was released in 2018.

Coastal Roundtable – Mornington Peninsula, March 2024
Cr Sarah Race, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, **Cr Michael Whelan**, Bass Coast Shire Council, and **Cr Sarah Gilligan**, South Gippsland Shire Council, reported on a Roundtable attended by Victorian Coastal Councils in March in response to projected sea level rise impacts by 2100.

Coastal Narratives – Past, Present and Future
Mark Western, of Integrated Coasts, presented a report highlighting how important it is to know the 'story' of each coast when undertaking adaptation projects, drawing from case studies across South Australia.

Workshop – Short-term Rentals in Urban and Coastal Communities
Nicole Gurran, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at The University of Sydney, conducted a workshop for local government representatives concerned about the impact of short-term rental platforms on their communities.

Sunshine Coast Council Coastal Health Report
Dale Watson, Senior Environmental Project Officer, Sunshine Coast Council, provided an outline of the City's first coast-wide assessment of the environmental condition and use of the Sunshine Coast beaches, headlands, lower estuaries and coastal lagoons.

Easing the Squeeze – A Case Study in Stormwater Management on Beaches
Nigel Smith, Lead – Coastal Management, Shoalhaven City Council, presented a report indicating how the management of stormwater on beaches can be a complex challenge. The presentation included a case study of these impacts at Mollymook Beach, on the NSW South Coast.

Innovative Seawall Design Options
Nat Patterson, Principal Coastal Engineer, Royal HaskoningDHV, presents an outline of innovative seawall designs to meet the unique challenges of different coastal locations.

CONFERENCE DAY THREE – Friday 31 May 2024

Development of the National Adaptation Plan
Dr Murray Townsend, Assistant Director, Climate Change Policy, Adaptation and Risk Division, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, presented a report on the development of a National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation

Plan by the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. They are being developed with the aim of providing guidance to planners and decision-makers on how Australia should adapt to its significant climate risks.

Coastal Policy Forum

Moira Were AM, Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga, facilitated the final session of the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference. The session was aimed at identifying the key coastal priorities to be addressed in the 2024 Conference Communiqué, which is reproduced on page 3 of this report.

Closing Remarks

Sharon Cadwallader, Chair of the Australian Coastal Councils Association and Mayor of Ballina Shire Council, in northern NSW, delivered the following remarks at the conclusion of the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference.

That concludes our 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference. Before closing I would like to thank a number of people who have played a key role in helping us to stage what I believe is one of the best events we have ever held, beginning with the City of Onkaparinga and the South Australian Coast Protection Board, who both provided strong support for the event. I would like to specifically thank Mayor Moira Were and her fellow councillors of the City of Onkaparinga, who have been such generous hosts to us over the past three days.

I would also like to thank the members of the conference advisory group, who played such an important role in developing the conference program -

Dr Nicole Pelton, SA Department of Environment and Water
Nina Keath, Team Leader Sustainability, City of Onkaparinga
Michael Arman, Program Manager, SA Climate Ready Coasts Program

I would like to thank our speakers who contributed so much to our store of knowledge of the challenges that lie ahead for coastal councils and their communities including climate change impacts and other coastal hazards. And I would like to thank each and every one of you who attended the conference as delegates and contributed so much to its success. I would also like to thank the conference organiser, Susan Faulkner, and her colleagues – Alan Stokes and Margaret Shannon – who have worked so hard to plan and manage what has been such a memorable event.

Finally, as you leave us to return home, I ask for your support in advocating for the coastal policy agenda which has been developed this morning.

Climate change impacts are already being experienced in many coastal areas around the country. We need to respond as a matter of urgency. There is a lot at stake. The coast is home to our state capitals and to more than 85% of our population. It makes a substantial contribution to the Australian economy. But it is at risk from a range of threats, including sea level rise, more frequent and severe extreme weather events, and widespread coastal erosion. There is no time to lose if we are to save this iconic national asset for the benefit of future generations.

So, I ask you to seek the support of your council for the conference communique when it is finalised, and to indicate your support for it to the Australian Minister for Emergency Management, Senator The Hon Murray Watt, with a copy to the National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting. We will provide details of how to contact them in the final

version of communique, when it is circulated. You could also send a copy to your local Federal MP.