INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE COASTAL PLANNING REMAINS ILLUSIVE:

WHO CARES AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

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Queensland Planning Conference, Mackay, Queensland
7 November 2013
Sustainability

Measuring New Zealand's Progress Using a Sustainable Development Approach: 2008

(Courtesy of the Major Cities Unit 2011)
Key coastal issues

- Coastal development

- Coastal Infrastructure

- Extreme weather and climate change
  - Flood, storms, heat and fire

- Social and economic change

- Coastal governance
Surfers Paradise Beach has suffered major erosion damage after the coastline has again been hammered by large swells. Picture: Adam Head, The Courier Mail Feb 23, 2013
Coastal inundation Batemans Bay
World Heritage: Great Barrier Reef Australia

Consultation closes on Friday 31 January 2014
National Inquiry into coastal management

*The time to act is now*
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Climate Change, Water,
Environment and the Arts
October 2009, Canberra

Federal governments
response to George report

National Coasts and Climate
Change Council

CSIRO climate change
adaptation flagship
Mainstreaming climate change

- Reducing residential sector emissions
  - 6 actions
- Reducing non-residential sector emissions
  - 3 actions
- Reducing transport sector emissions
  - 1 action
- Reducing waste sector emissions
  - 1 action
- Transitioning to large-scale renewable energy
  - 3 actions
- Adapting to a changing climate
  - 3 actions
- Monitoring, reporting and future decision making
  - 1 action

Example of the ACT Government Plan
Current responses

The continuing absence of an integrated approach to sustainable coastal planning between governments

State coastal policies and plans being wound back in recent months in Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

Local responses depending on local government and its resources

A renewed interest in risk management following recent extreme weather events

Increasing concern on lack of clarity of responsibilities, risks, liabilities and costs
A range of coastal plans

Dhimurru
Yolŋu Mʉŋk Gapu Wanj
IPA Sea Country Management Plan
2013-2015

Victorian Coastal Strategy
2008

Draft Coastal Management Plan
Peron Naturaliste Regional Partnership

Nine local councils in the south west WA voluntarily working together

The **vision** of the Peron Naturaliste Partnership (PNP) is to empower a resilient regional community to reduce risks and optimise opportunities presented by climate change.
Smart green growth in coastal zone

- Renewable energy
  - Community concerns with wind and solar farms

- Green precincts

- Transit oriented development
Community engagement

Lincoln hosts first regional climate meeting

CSIRO Climate Change Adaptation Flagship Advisory Committee
Port Lincoln Times 31 October 2013 p1

Artists interpret climate change forecast

Eden Magnet, 3 November 2013 p1
Building capacity in coastal planning

Photos above left and top right: Vivian Straw; Photo top right: Barbara Norman
South Coast Adaptation Report
Climate change in the south east

The science indicates that by 2030 the region may experience:

- increased temperatures (virtually certain)
- changes in the pattern of rainfall (likely),
- further sea-level rise (virtually certain),
- an increasing risk of coastal inundation and erosion (highly likely) and
- an increasing risk of bushfires (highly likely)

(Norman et al 2013, South East Coastal Adaptation, NCCARF)
Principles: climate adapted coastal town 2030

**Principle 1**
An integrated approach should be adopted for sustainable regional and local planning (social, economic, environmental and cultural).

**Principle 2**
The precautionary principle to decision making should be applied to the location of new and redeveloped urban settlement and infrastructure and other relevant decisions, particularly where environmental risk currently or potentially exists.

**Principle 3**
Risk management approaches should be incorporated into local and regional strategies for coastal settlements responding to climate and environmental change including progressive learning from experience to ensure adaptability.

**Principle 4**
Appropriate forums should be established at the regional level to enable collaboration across institutions at the local and regional level.
Principles: climate adapted coastal town 2030

Principle 5
There should be an ongoing process of community engagement. This needs to be informed by the latest science, in developing and regularly reviewing coastal urban plans to gain community support, and where possible support by all levels of government and across government agencies.

Principle 6
The skills and knowledge of regional and local communities should be connected by relevant organisations to provide a foundation for long-term research, co-production of knowledge and monitoring of coastal urban futures.

Principle 7
A process of continuous monitoring, evaluation and reporting of adaptation actions should be implemented to ensure learning by doing and to avoid past mistakes.

Norman et al 2013, Coastal urban climate futures in SE Australia from Wollongong to Lakes Entrance, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Gold Coast
Conclusions

1. Understanding the coastal pressures is just the beginning.

2. Not planning to a point but to a trajectory with climate change.

3. Mainstreaming planning for extreme weather events and longer term environmental change now necessary.

4. Regional collaboration including research for integrated sustainable coastal planning needs support.

5. More effective sharing of knowledge and capacity building required for decision makers dealing with complex issues.

6. Short term decisions must consider the long term consequences.

7. An intergovernmental agreement on sustainable coastal planning and development is vital to protect our coasts over the long term.
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