



Media Release From the Victorian Coastal Council

Thursday 27 October

Victorian Coastal Council launches latest coastal science

The most significant issues for Victoria's coastline according to 43 of our top scientists were today identified in a report released by the Victorian Coastal Council (VCC).

Chair of the VCC, Libby Mears, said that the report recognises the critical role that independent and credible science has in informing how Victoria's precious coast should be managed.

"One of the VCC's main functions is to undertake research into scientific issues as well as social behaviours and attitudes to the coast."

"If we have a solid basis on which to base coastal planning and management advice then we can be sure that Victoria's coastline will be preserved for all Victorians well into the future."

"The *Emerging Scientific Issues on Victoria's Coast 2011* report will be used by coastal policy makers, scientists and other coastal stakeholders and managers."

"The VCC is also using this latest science for the mid-term review of the Victorian Coastal Strategy which is currently underway," said Ms Mears.

Membership of the VCC Science Panel consists of 43 preeminent scientists, representing a broad range of disciplines related to coastal and marine science including marine biology, climate change, chemistry and geomorphology.

The panel identified three emerging environmental issues of concern in its report:

- Understanding the effects of increased climatic variability
- Understanding the importance of links between catchments, estuaries and broader coastal waters for maintaining marine ecosystem health
- Understanding the cumulative ecological consequences of coastal development to meet human needs.

Professor Michael Keough, member of the VCC and Chair of its Science Panel stated, "There is a strong need for a group such as the Science Panel given the current absence of an independent scientific advisory body for the coast and marine environments".

"The collective experience and knowledge of the VCC Science Panel ensures "whole of coast" science - and this model is unique in Australia."

"By regularly updating the information and research that underpins advice we give to the Victorian Government we can be sure that coastal planning and management is well grounded in scientific evidence," he said.

Emerging Scientific Issues on Victoria's Coast: 2011 Update can be viewed at: www.vcc.vic.gov.au.

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