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## **Coastal management staying on course**

The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 continues to be a robust framework for balancing the competing needs of the coast and providing links to the land use planning system, according to a mid-term review released by the Victorian Coastal Council (VCC) today.

Chairperson of the VCC, Mr Jon Hickman said “the Victorian Coastal Strategy is incorporated into coastal policy in the State Planning Policy Framework and is one of the key guidelines for coastal management and development. It has been a valuable tool for managing growth and development in coastal areas.

“The three most significant issues facing the coast - adapting to a changing climate, managing population and growth and maintaining marine ecological integrity - are complex and critical.

“The Strategy set a policy of planning for future sea level rise of not less than 0.8 metres by 2100. This has been a useful and consistent benchmark for management and planning decisions.

“The government's recent announcement of an interim benchmark of planning for future sea level rise of not less than 0.2m by 2040 will also help decision makers to understand the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge on the coast,” he said.

“I welcome the recent release by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change of maps and guidance material which will allow completion of many actions supporting the sea level rise policy.

“In recent times we have seen more extreme weather events in Victoria. The Victorian Coastal Strategy also helps the many arms of government to plan for those events.

The mid-term review found 85% of the actions in the Strategy are complete, in progress or ongoing with the remaining actions in the planning stage.

“Coastal Action Plans set in regions and Coastal Management Plans developed locally are key to achieving tangible outcomes for our coastline,” Mr Hickman said.

The review has also identified emerging issues that need to be considered in the next iteration of the Strategy.

A draft of the next iteration of the Strategy is due in 2013. The VCC will work with a range of stakeholders in undertaking this work.

A copy of the report is at [www.vcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.vcc.vic.gov.au)