



2018 AUSTRALIAN COASTAL COUNCILS CONFERENCE

GEELONG LIBRARY AND HERITAGE CENTRE 21-23 MARCH 2018

COMMUNIQUÉ

Preamble

Representatives of Australian coastal councils attending the Australian Coastal Councils Conference at Geelong, Victoria, from 21 to 23 March 2018, identified a critical need for additional support from the Australian Government to strengthen the capacity of local government to respond effectively to increasing climate change risks. These risks include widespread coastal erosion, more severe extreme weather events, and rising sea levels. The delegates attending the conference resolved to issue the following communiqué concerning this matter.

Communiqué

We call on the Australian Government to support initiatives by councils to develop and implement coastal climate change adaptation plans, to improve the sustainability and resilience of coastal settlements vulnerable to increasing climate change risks. Councils are at the forefront of responding to these risks in the coastal zone on behalf of all Australians, but they lack the resources necessary to respond effectively to the complex challenges involved. In addition, councils require more consistent policy guidance and scientific advice in relation to developing and implementing appropriate climate adaptation measures.

We therefore call on the Australian Government to support initiatives to assist coastal councils to respond to climate change risks in consultation with state and territory governments and local government authorities.

Friday 23 March 2018