



**22 August 2022**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

---

## **Regional Strategy – Adapting to a Changing Tasmanian Coastline**

---

Today the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority released the *Regional Strategy – Adapting to a Changing Coastline in Tasmania* (the Strategy).

Mayor Alex Green, who is the current STCA Chair said, "The Strategy whilst an initiative of the STCA's climate program is of relevance to all councils that share in Tasmania's coastline."

He said that "The STCA recognises the challenges to local government in responding to climate change risks and the need for clear guidance and coordination on a consistent approach to support their management."

He said that "The Strategy provides an important starting place for Councils which are managing increasing coastal risks and hazards from climate change."

He added that "Increasingly communities expect local government to take a 'climate' lead in providing solutions and taking action. They are also seeking to transfer risk or share risk, associated with climate impacts/accelerated natural hazards as can be seen by recent bushfires, floods and coastal erosion events across Australia."

Deputy Lord Mayor Helen Burnet who Chairs the STCA's climate program, the Regional Climate Change Initiative, said that "These coastal impacts, and the public's expectations, present significant challenges to local government, including potential increase in exposure to litigation, if they are not appropriately managed."

She added that "whilst the Strategy does not provide the Councils with the solutions or responses to coastal hazards and impacts, it does provide an important starting place for our coastal councils to take action."

Cr Burnet said "The Strategy's core coastal principles facilitate transparency and consistency specific to the key roles and responsibilities of Tasmanian councils. The principles cover coastal values, public safety through to private property, the role of council and how we manage the coast. Importantly they are not prescriptive, enabling flexibility for councils to develop local responses particular to their circumstance and resources."

Councils may apply the Strategy's principles to their coastal climate programs to prepare integrated hazards management plans for coastal and riverine catchments. The City of Hobart is using the principles to inform our development of responses to managing coastal impacts and engage with our local coastal communities to assist them in understanding local impacts and identify key responses."

For further information please call: Cr Helen Burnet. Mob: 0417 284 267