



# ACS

Australian Coastal Society Ltd

## Australian Coastal Society Newsletter

**December 2010**

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010

The Executive of ACS has been very pleased with the continued evolution of ACS during 2010. We are much better positioned now to undertake more proactive advocacy for the protection of sustainable coastal values in 2011 than we were at the beginning of 2010. We are also better able to offer members more information through our web site and discussion group processes and to engage with a range of stakeholders with interests, often conflicting, in coastal use, planning and management.

One of our goals in 2010 was to establish state branches in some form or another. We have achieved that goal. In each state we have formed a group which in 2011 can take on state issues. I must pay tribute to the Queensland group that has paved the way and is offering support to other states in the formal establishment of a branch under the ACS Constitution. Meetings of members who have expressed interest in working at state levels have commenced. Such meetings will become more important in 2011 given the results of elections. In Victoria such actions have already commenced. It will assist the ACS if members make frequent contact with state convenors whose details are posted on the web site.

Another goal in 2010 was the release of an ACS national policy to coincide with the federal election in August. The three key initiatives that we supported at that time and continue to support flowed from our involvement in the House of Representatives Coastal Inquiry. They are:

- (1) to push for a national coastal policy under an intergovernmental agreement;
- (2) to support the establishment of a National Coastal Information System which could incorporate a National Coastal Observing System: and
- (3) the eventual creation of a National Coastal Commission. I have had several opportunities in speeches and in meetings to advance the arguments behind each of these initiatives. The Executive welcomes any opportunity to discuss these and any other ideas related to national activities especially with the on-going federal government work flowing from the release of the response to the House of Representatives Committee report and the risk assessment studies of DCCEE.

During 2010 many members participated in a range of conferences. I was privileged to give several keynote speeches which can be

continued over page....

### **ACS in the news**

(click blue underlined links)

[Preparing coastal regions for climate change](#)

**Radio National – Bush Telegraph** 15/12/10

In this report: Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom, president of the Australian Coastal Society

[New sea level rise maps released for Newcastle](#)

**ABC Online**

15 Dec 2010.

Australian Coastal Society President, Professor Bruce Thom says it is vital Hunter households are prepared. "The maps will highlight what the potential ...

[Beach protection may carry price tag of \\$700m](#)

8 Dec 2010

**Sydney Morning Herald**

Preserving Sydney's beaches against rising sea levels could cost more than \$700 million over the next 50 years and would require the government to reverse its long-standing position regarding offshore sandmining, according to a study on climate change-induced beach erosion.

[Online video at climate change department](#)

featuring ACS

accessed through the ACS web site with its link to the Wentworth Group web site. These conferences enabled our passion for coastal issues to be demonstrated across a range of disciplines and issues.

To me that is what ACS represents—a broad church not tied to NRM or planning or engineering, or law or whatever. We embrace them all. At C2C in Adelaide in September it was quite evident that this broad perspective is our strength, but it can also be a weakness. The sectoral nature of government and sciences often creates difficulties for those who seek to transcend the divisions. Yet what 2010 showed me is that there are many professionals and students and community groups who want to see change in the way we manage our coastal treasures without descending too far into the silos. C2C continues to be a great event to help us in this regard.

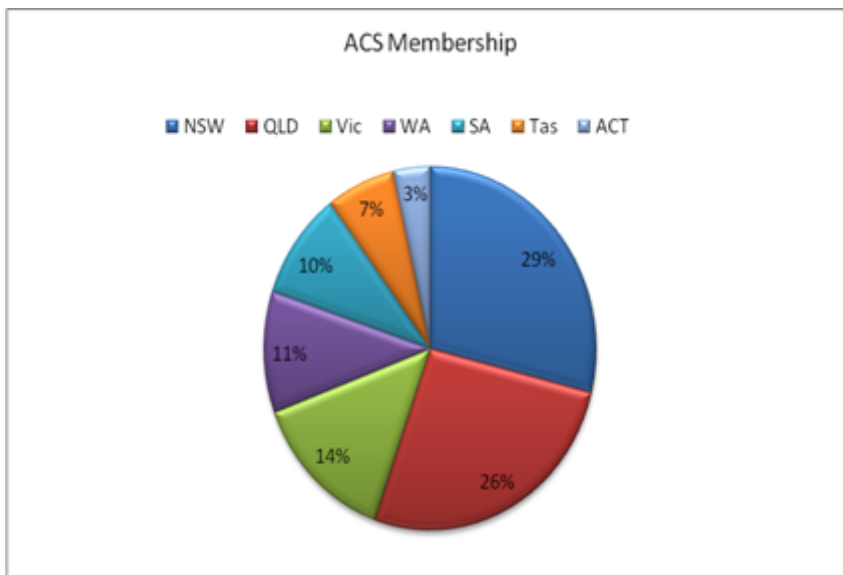
We need to continue to grow our membership. Any young organisation dependent on membership fees and still subject to a range of fixed costs must sustain its membership base and reach out to others who may wish to join. We want to offer more support in two ways: the first is through information and discussion opportunities offered via our web site. Our Communications Director, Mel Bradbury, has done a magnificent job in setting up the system. But she needs folk to sign on and to provide news and discussion points. The second is a plan being developed to give professional support in various coastal fields. Again we seek advice from members on how this might best be organised, but initial testing of the idea indicated the need for such action.

Finally, I wish to thank members of ACS for their support in 2010, in particular members of the Executive and wish everyone all the very best for 2011.

Professor Bruce Thom, Chair Australian Coastal Society

## ACS MEMBERSHIP

The ACS currently has 167 current members. The graph below shows the distribution of members between states. The Figure shows that NSW and QLD have the largest share of members and the least populated states have fewer members. All states are actively making concerted effort to grow the membership.



## Professional Development

Advertise professional development opportunities (eg conferences, workshops etc) here – please contact Mel Bradbury

## Coastal Jobs

Advertise coastal jobs here – please contact Mel Bradbury

## Other news

Whether you attended or not, whether you are from NSW or not, there is still worth in checking out the papers from the [19<sup>th</sup> NSW Coastal Conference](#). Papers have all been put up on the website now and are worth a look.

## Sustainable coastal planning for urban growth and climate change

Professor Barbara Norman's keynote address at the 19th NSW Coastal Conference highlighted key aspects of coastal urban planning highly relevant to the future of coastal regions under pressure from climate change and population growth.

Comments on the paper to Professor Norman are most welcome and could assist the future deliberations of the National Coasts and Climate Change Council of which she is a member.

Download (pdfs):  
[Presentation Slides](#) and  
[Paper](#)

## STATE CHAPTER UPDATES

### Tasmania

A small local organising committee held a planning meeting in early November to lay the foundations for the establishment of the Tasmanian Branch of the ACS. At the meeting, it was decided to hold the inaugural AGM to launch the Tasmanian Branch of the ACS in Campbell Town in early February 2011. Prof Bruce Thom will be attending the meeting where he will talk on the objectives and activities of the ACS. A venue has been booked and now the local organising committee is busy collating emails for a statewide email announcement before Christmas.

### South Australia

The South Australian chapter has continued its advocacy role, maintaining behind-the-scenes campaigning for protection of remnant sand dunes at North Brighton on the metropolitan coast. Information sharing continues via the "Save Minda Dunes!" facebook group, discussions with local councillors and other concerned groups. Chapter chair Claire Lock gave a presentation to Nature Conservation Society SA members on coastal development from a biodiversity and conservation perspective in November, highlighting the diversity and value of South Australia's coastline as well as development threats with a case study of the proposed development at North Brighton.

At the state level, ACS President and Vice-President, Professor Bruce Thom and Professor Nicholas Harvey, wrote to the SA Minister for Environment and Conservation regarding the internal re-organisation of the Coastal Management Branch, which ACS believes will impact the branch on operating in an integrated manner. The letter and ministerial response can be viewed on the ACS website.

The chapter is making preparations to hold its first meeting mid February and will advise of details in the New Year. Please get in touch with Claire if you have any queries or would like to get further involved.

### NSW, Qld, WA and Vic

Updates in the next newsletter

## A WORD FROM THE ACS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The ACS aims to communicate with members in two ways. Firstly the Board will send out this regular ACS newsletter periodically. In 2010 we sent out a couple of these, but we will be endeavouring to do this more regularly in the coming year. The second form of communication we will be fostering is through the **ACS Discussion Group**. This is a less formal form of communication. The Newsletter is a top down form of communication sent out by the Board, but the Discussion Group is a way for all members to instigate discussion and sharing of information with all other members. Since the inception of the Discussion Group, I have been the main person sending information out, but the idea is that anyone who is signed up to the group can send information out and I am hoping this will increase in the coming year too.

The Discussion Group is hosted by Google Groups and we have chosen to use google groups as they do the best job of keeping spammers out and at bay, their security is pretty good, but the downside of this is that the process involved in signing up to the ACS Discussion google group is a multi-stepped process, which proves technologically daunting for some. For that reason, I am happy to help you out over the phone to go through the 3 (or so) step process to sign up to the group. Please email me at mel.bradbury71@gmail.com if you would like help signing up.

For those members who have signed up to the group (there are 77 of you at this stage), please don't forget to use the group's email address to circulate items of interest. By emailing the group's email address [acs-discussion@googlegroups.com](mailto:acs-discussion@googlegroups.com) you will be sending your email message to all ACS members.

All the best for Summer

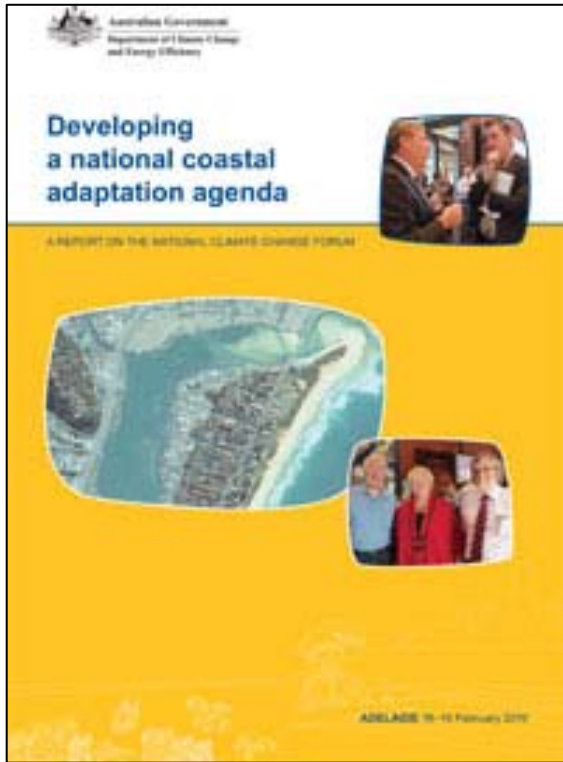
Cheers Mel Bradbury - ACS Communications Officer

## OTHER NEWS

### Developing a national coastal adaptation agenda: a report on the national coastal climate change forum

Released 23/11/2010

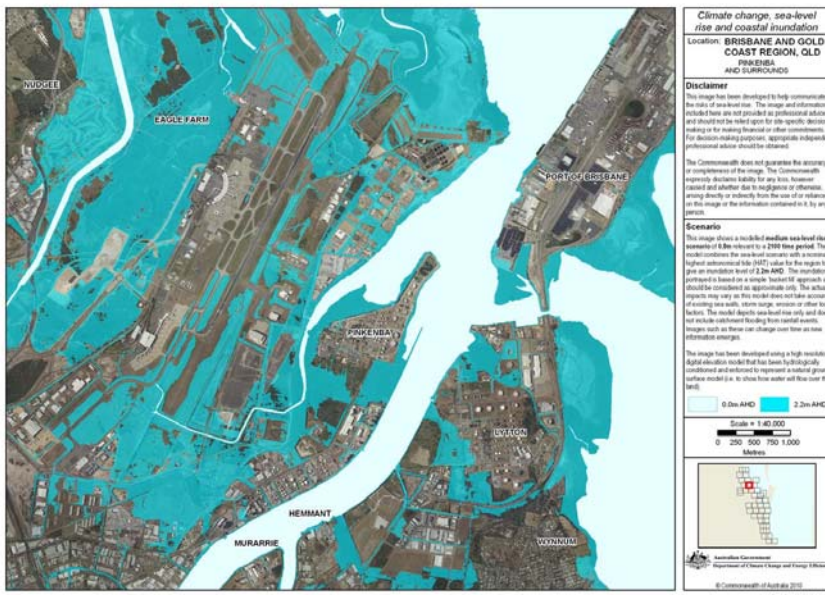
Available online at: [Department of Climate Change and Energy](http://www.decc.gov.au)



### Coastal maps help Australia prepare for impacts of climate change

Released 15/12/2010

New maps which identify the future impacts of climate change on some coastal regions will assist the community prepare for sea level rise. Sea Level Rise Maps can be accessed at [www.ozcoasts.org.au](http://www.ozcoasts.org.au)



## Contacts

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NT Chapter - vacant

## Australian Coastal Society Ltd

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## Editor

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