



29 January 2010

Senator The Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Climate Change and Water
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Wong

Re: Climate Change Risks to Australia's Coast: A First Pass National Assessment

The Australian Coastal Society (ACS) would like to congratulate you and the Department of Climate Change on the production of the report on *Climate Change Risks to Australia's Coast*, which you launched last November.

The ACS believes that this report provides an important first step towards a more detailed national coastal risk assessment. Notwithstanding the international debate around the rate and timing of climate-change induced sea-level projections, the ACS endorses the report's approach in developing a national scientific risk assessment based on a projected sea-level rise of 1.1 m to the year 2100.

The report provides a timely contribution to the discussion on projected climate-change induced coastal impacts used in the development of various State Government planning guidelines for coastal development. It also raises public awareness to the fact that it is not just the elevated water levels that will cause damage but the increased frequency of major storms, coastal erosion and flooding events.

While the ACS will provide comment directly to the Department of Climate Change on various technical aspects and methodologies used in the report, the Society felt it was important to acknowledge your own efforts and support in raising national awareness of the climate change risks to our coastline.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Harvey'.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Wescott'.

Professor Nick Harvey* and Associate Professor Geoff Wescott**
Vice-Presidents, Australian Coastal Society Ltd
(*The University of Adelaide, **Deakin University)