



Dear Minister

The Australian Coastal Society is a national body formed to promote knowledge and understanding of the environmental, social and economic value of the Australian coast and to improve government and public understanding of the need to improve coastal planning and management in Australia.

The Society has been interested, and somewhat alarmed, to read of references to dismantling the Victorian coastal planning and management system in the White Paper on Biodiversity and Land Use released on Monday December 7.

The Society has monitored the development of the White Paper through the Green Paper phase and given that there was no reference to any intention to change coastal institutional arrangements in the Green Paper, and no public consultation on the matter since, we were very surprised to find a suggestion that the Victorian Coastal Council was to be dissolved “in due course” in the White Paper.

The Society believes the current Victorian model is a benchmark for Australia in terms of achieving Integrated Coastal Zone Management and draws to your attention the praise of the Victorian approach in the recent House of Representatives Committee report on the impact of climate change on coastal communities and to Ms Jennie George’s (the Chair of that committee) comments on the White paper’s proposals in today’s “Age” (p. 10)

Given that we have not had the opportunity to comment on the intended changes we would like to meet with you in person in the near future to discuss the implications for coastal planning and management in Victoria.

I hope you will be able to meet to discuss these implications before you proceed any further on this very controversial proposal.

Yours sincerely

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President

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cc. Secretary of DSE.

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