

Support for Coastal Hazard Risk Assessments in South Gippsland

South Gippsland Shire Council will initiate Coastal Hazard Risk Assessments in key locations along the South Gippsland coastline after securing \$200,000 in funding support from the Victorian Government through the *'Victoria's Resilient Coasts'* grants program.

The assessment of coastal hazards is a first step in identifying how best to plan, manage and prepare for future climate change impacts.

The need for Coastal Hazard Risk Assessments in South Gippsland was identified in the *'South Gippsland Coastal Strategy'*. The Strategy calls for the prioritisation of new or updated hazard risk mapping and policy changes to identify current and anticipated coastal hazard risks in coastal areas. This recommendation provided the foundation for Council's successful *'Waratah Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment'* grant application.

The assessment will cover the area from Cape Liptrap to Shallow Inlet and investigate the impacts of rising sea levels on coastal townships and other assets in the area like the historic Walkerville Lime Kilns and sensitive dune environments. Coastal hazard assessments have recently been completed for Wilsons Promontory and Cape Liptrap to Cape Paterson. The Waratah Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment will fill the gap area and provide a continuous assessment of the South Gippsland coastline for the area west of Wilsons Prom.

The Coastal Hazard Assessments will complement Council's work with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on a project that will progress another Coastal Strategy action related to risk management in our coastal townships. This project is being funded by the Victorian Government and is expected to be completed later this year.

These projects also align with Council's advocacy efforts and a forthcoming Motion that will be presented to the Municipal Association Victoria State Council this month which calls on the Victorian Government to *"fund and complete updated coastal hazard mapping across Victoria by 2025 and implement hazard mapping data into all affected Victorian Planning Schemes."*

Quote attributable to Cr Williams, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council

“Council would like to thank the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for helping to progress our Coastal Strategy objectives. The \$200,000 will enable the delivery of important coastal risk assessments that will inform Council and the South Gippsland community and help us prepare for future coastal challenges, together.”

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