



Your ref: Yvette Goss  
Our ref: Paul Needham

1 June 2012

Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation  
Productivity Commission  
LB2 Collins Street East  
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Attn: Yvette Goss

Dear Sir/Madam

**SUBMISSION – BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION DRAFT  
REPORT APRIL 2012**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned draft report. Coastal change issues are very significant for the City of Busselton, as we have upwards of 30 kilometres of coastline that is currently subject to coastal erosion and inundation risks, and these risks are expected to increase substantially over coming decades.

The City is supportive of the reform priorities set out in the report, in particular -

- Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of local governments in climate change adaptation;
- Ensuring that local governments have resources that are commensurate with the responsibilities they are tasked with by the state and territory governments; and
- Clarifying the legal liability of local governments in relation to land-use planning decisions that are related to climate change adaptation.

The City has taken a number of steps to pro-actively respond to the challenges posed by climate change, especially those related to coastal processes, but effective addressing of the reform priorities set out above would greatly assist the City and its community.

There is considerable uncertainty in relation to these matters currently, and that is hindering pro-active coastal adaption planning and management by all levels of government, by private landowners and by affected communities.

If you have any queries regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

Paul Needham  
**DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**