



Clarence... a brighter place

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21 October 2014

Productivity Commission
disaster.funding@pc.gov.au

Attention: Ms Yvette Goss

Dear Ms Goss

NATURAL DISASTER FUNDING

I refer to the Productivity Commission's draft report on Natural Disaster Funding which has been released for public comment.

Clarence City Council, in response, wishes to make the following comments.

Draft Recommendation 3.2.

Council supports this draft recommendation. Clarence Council, situated on the Southern coastline of Tasmania is experiencing significant issues with coastal erosion. Major studies undertaken by Council have identified that significant infrastructure and property damage could result from major storm or erosive events. Currently there are no readily accessible government funding streams to assist Council with undertaking mitigation works to prevent or minimise future infrastructure and property damage. Council welcomes the recommendation to increase funding to mitigation works, thus reducing the likely incidence of a disaster and the need for disaster funding.

Draft Recommendation 4.4

Council supports this draft recommendation. Currently it is Council's view that there is inadequate strategic leadership by Governments in regard to integrating natural hazards into land use planning. It needs to be done in a co-ordinated and considered manner.

Draft Recommendation 4.5

The cost to a small Council of identifying the extent of natural hazards is commonly beyond their means both in a technical and financial sense.

Councils require support from Government to assist them identify the extent of natural hazards and how best to mitigate or adapt land use planning to address the hazard appropriately.

Draft Recommendation 4.6

Council endorses the proposal to clarify the extent of Local Governments legal liability. As identified in the report, numerous legal authorities and bodies have called for a better understanding and clarity around this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. I trust the supported recommendations will continue to be supported in the final report.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Paul
GENERAL MANAGER