

## Planning approaches in Tasmania

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### Planning system

The framework for Tasmania's planning system is set out in the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act).

In late 2015 the Act was amended to provide for the introduction of a single planning scheme for the State; the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. The Tasmanian Planning Scheme will consist of State Planning Provisions (SPPs) to ensure consistency in the planning controls applying across the State, and Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs) to provide the necessary flexibility to address local issues.

The SPPs, which include a Coastal Inundation Hazard Code and a Coastal Erosion Hazard Code, came into effect on 2 March 2017. Local councils are now required to develop LPSs that include the state-wide coastal hazard maps, which incorporate an allowance for sea-level rise (more information below). Local councils which have more detailed mapping may be able to modify these maps in their LPS. Decisions on applications for use and development will be made based on the application of the SPP Codes and the mapping in the LPSs.

Tasmanian Planning Policies will also be introduced as part of the State's planning reforms. A Hazards and Risks Planning Policy is currently being developed, which will address strategic planning issues relating to coastal and other natural hazards, as well as environmental risks, and help inform future reviews of regional land use strategies and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. A consultation draft of the Tasmanian Planning Policies was released in April 2017, and can be viewed [here](#).

Regional Land Use Strategies will remain part of the Tasmanian planning system and will provide strategic guidance for land use planning in Tasmania.

In 2016 the Tasmanian Government engaged CSIRO to provide updated sea-level rise projections and planning allowances for Tasmania. The updated allowances are based on the sea-level rise projections provided in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s [Fifth Assessment Report](#) <sup>PDF</sup> (IPCC AR5).

Tasmania has sea-level rise projections and planning allowances for each coastal municipality in the State, as well as statewide averages for 2050 and 2100 (both relative to 2010 sea levels). The sea-level rise planning allowances for each coastal municipality can be found in this table: [Tasmanian Local Council Sea Level Rise Planning Allowances](#) <sup>PDF</sup>.

### Climate challenges

Tasmania is Australia's island state, with a total area of 68 401 square kilometres and a population of around 520 000 people. Almost half of Tasmania's land mass is held in reserves and operates as a net carbon sink.

No place in Tasmania is more than 115 km from the sea, with many population centres and industries focused on the coast. The State's coastline features a diverse range of natural and cultural values and iconic landscapes, as well as being a major economic asset through tourism, aquaculture, ports and shipping and renewable energy.

Due to its position in the Southern Ocean, Tasmania enjoys a cool temperate climate. The impacts experienced as a result of climate change are therefore likely to be less severe in Tasmania than in other Australian states and territories.

The [Climate Futures for Tasmania](#) <sup>PDF</sup> (CFT) project is the most important source of Tasmanian climate change projections at a local scale. Between 2010 and 2012, the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC) published the CFT reports that presented the first fine-scale local climate information for Tasmania.

Through CFT modelling, we have an understanding of how the Tasmanian climate is likely to change between now and 2100.

The modelling projects the following major changes for Tasmania:

- a rise in annual average temperatures by between 1.6 and 2.9°C by 2100
- a significant change in rainfall patterns from season to season and from region to region, with more rain expected on the coasts and less in central Tasmania
- an increase in rainfall intensity and associated flooding and the possibility of longer periods between rain events
- an increase in storm instances, which is likely to result in increased flooding, coastal inundation and estuarine flooding
- more hot summer days and more heat waves than experienced in the past
- substantially reduced incidence of frost
- an increase in East Coast water temperature by up to 2 to 3°C by 2070 relative to 1990 levels. [1]

## Key planning polices/strategies

State Coastal Policy 1996 [http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/91392/State\\_Coastal\\_Policy\\_1996.pdf](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/91392/State_Coastal_Policy_1996.pdf)

Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy 2010-2035

[http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/332986/DOC\\_16\\_95635\\_Southern\\_Tasmania\\_Regional\\_Land\\_Use\\_Strategy\\_2013\\_final\\_version\\_as\\_reduced.pdf](http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/332986/DOC_16_95635_Southern_Tasmania_Regional_Land_Use_Strategy_2013_final_version_as_reduced.pdf)

Regional Land Use Strategy of Northern Tasmania

[http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/332985/Northern\\_Tasmania\\_Regional\\_Land\\_Use\\_Strategy\\_-\\_Revised\\_-\\_Effective\\_06\\_Jan\\_2016.pdf](http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/332985/Northern_Tasmania_Regional_Land_Use_Strategy_-_Revised_-_Effective_06_Jan_2016.pdf)

Living on the Coast: The Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Planning Framework

[http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/332984/Living\\_on\\_the\\_Coast\\_-\\_declared\\_27Oct2011.pdf](http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/332984/Living_on_the_Coast_-_declared_27Oct2011.pdf)

## Key planning legislation

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-070>

Local Government Act 1993

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-095>

Further information available at Tasmanian Planning Commission <http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/>

## Relevant state-wide coastal datasets

The Tasmanian Government's Land Information System Tasmania (LIST) provides a range of open source datasets that are relevant to the coastal zone. These include:

- LIDAR Coastal Index
- LIST Coastline (MHW)
- Land Tasmania Aerial Photography
- LIST Hydrographic Areas.

These datasets can be accessed via the following link: <http://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/opendata/>.

The Tasmanian Shoreline Monitoring and Archiving (TASMAR) project provides surveyed profiles of over 30 beaches throughout the state. Changes to the profile of the beach due to coastal processes are measured by comparisons of the surveys over time (<http://www.tasmarc.info>).

## Other relevant information

### Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan

On 1 June 2017, the Tasmanian Government released Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2021: [http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/tasmanias\\_climate\\_change\\_action\\_plan\\_20172021](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/tasmanias_climate_change_action_plan_20172021).

Climate Action 21 sets the Tasmanian Government's agenda for action on climate change through to 2021. It reflects the Government's commitment to addressing the critical issue of climate change and articulates how Tasmania will play its role in the global response to climate

change.

Climate Action 21 includes a commitment to establish an aspirational long-term target to achieve zero net emissions by 2050, which aligns with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$3 million in new funding to implement Climate Action 21. This builds on over \$400 million already invested by the Government to support action on climate change, including a significant investment in irrigation, infrastructure and the Tasmanian Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme.

### **Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Pathways Project**

The Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Pathways (TCAP) project aims to help Tasmanian communities and decision-makers to adapt to climate change impacts by:

- raising the communities' awareness of their vulnerability to the impacts of coastal inundation and erosion
- improving the ability of coastal councils and communities to plan and respond to likely climate scenarios; and
- examining risk management and adaptation options that will improve communities' ability to manage risk and reduce the impacts of inundation and erosion.

The TCAP approach is to work with local councils and communities through a step-by-step approach to consider adaptation options for vulnerable coastal areas.

Step 1 - Councils nominate coastal areas that are vulnerable to climate change.

Step 2 - Using coastal hazard mapping and a risk management approach, the coastal risks for each of the coastal communities are identified and analysed.

Step 3 - The project takes this analysis to the relevant local councils and communities and supports them to consider adaptation options using a [flexible planning pathway \(IPEG\)](#).

Since 2011, TCAP has been delivered with 12 communities across Tasmania.

[http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/Climate\\_Change\\_Priorities/climate\\_risks\\_and\\_opportunities/coastal](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/Climate_Change_Priorities/climate_risks_and_opportunities/coastal)

### **Coastal Communities Adaptation Planning portal**

A suite of training modules were produced by the Tasmanian Government to further support community-based coastal adaptation planning. The modules are based on the methodology used in the [Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project \(TCAP\)](#) and have a strong emphasis on involving the community in adaptation planning in coastal settlements. The modules outline processes for undertaking a risk analysis and determining adaptation options (referred to as 'pathways' in the modules) for a community that has been identified as being at-risk from coastal hazards. Risks might include erosion or inundation and may be current day or projected future risks.

[http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/what\\_you\\_can\\_do/local\\_government/local\\_government\\_adaptation/local\\_government\\_adaptation\\_planning\\_resources/community-based\\_coastal\\_adaptation\\_planning](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/what_you_can_do/local_government/local_government_adaptation/local_government_adaptation_planning_resources/community-based_coastal_adaptation_planning)

### **Mitigating Natural Hazards through Land Use Planning**

In 2011 the Department of Premier and Cabinet established a project to develop a framework for the mitigation of risks from natural hazards through land use planning and building controls.

The framework will comprise:

1. *Principles* that describe the role of government in managing natural hazards through land use planning and building control;
2. A *Guide* that outlines the method used to mitigate the risk presented by natural hazards through the land use planning system;
3. *Hazard Reports* relating to specific hazards that describe:
  - the approach to defining hazard risk bands (acceptable, low, medium, high)
  - the proposed planning and building controls within each of the hazard bands.

The framework was endorsed by Government in 2013, and is being implemented in parallel with the Tasmanian Planning Commission's development of State-wide Planning Directives for natural hazards.

[http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/osem/mitigating\\_natural\\_hazards](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/osem/mitigating_natural_hazards)

### **Coastal Hazards Technical Reports and guidance on maps developed**

In response to the risks presented by coastal inundation and erosion a Draft Coastal Hazards Package (the Draft Package) has been prepared by the Tasmanian Government. The Draft Package provides guidance for managing coastal hazards in the land use planning system. It adopts a risk-based approach based on the best available evidence to inform appropriate planning and building controls, including the coastal inundation and erosion codes in the draft of the State Planning Provisions.

[http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/osem/coastal\\_hazards\\_in\\_tasmania](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/osem/coastal_hazards_in_tasmania)

<https://maps.thelist.tas.gov.au/listmap/app/list/map>

[1] Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, 2007: *Climate Change in Australia*. Accessed 28 March 2018,

[http://ccia2007.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/documents/resources/TR\\_Web\\_Ch5i.pdf](http://ccia2007.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/documents/resources/TR_Web_Ch5i.pdf)

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## Also in CoastAdapt

[Impact of sea level rise on coastal natural values in Tasmania](#)

[Kingston Beach: Climate change adaptation showcase](#)

[Clarence City Council's coastal adaptation pathway](#)

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CoastAdapt was developed by NCCARF with funding from the Australian Government through the Department of the Environment and Energy

