

Coastal Resilience Meeting Postponed

In an ironic turn of events, a forum for Victorian Coastal Councils to address risk and liability due to coastal hazards was postponed because of severe weather and storm surge warnings. Ultimately it was deemed too risky to ask people to travel for the 6 September meeting, the very reason for the forum was the reason it could not go ahead.

The Building Coastal Resilience Together forum is a collaboration between South Gippsland Shire Council, the Municipal Association of Victoria and JLT (Public Sector Risk). Its purpose was to gather Victoria's coastal councils together in Venus Bay, to discuss coastal hazards, the impacts on coastal communities, and how the local government sector can address the many risk and liability issues in future and legacy planning effectively.

Organisers are now working with the 20 coastal councils to gain an understanding of the coastal vulnerabilities of each Council area, which will help to build a unified position and way forward.

Quote attributable to Clare Williams, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council

"It is disappointing the event could not go ahead, especially as there would have been economic benefits for our local community, however we will continue to work behind the scenes. Council is already collaborating closely with other coastal councils - and the Victorian Government - to progress our Resilient Coastal Communities advocacy priority. We have had significant success in this space to date, with \$200,000 in grant funding secured in coastal hazard assessments and endorsed Motions with the Municipal Association of Victoria. The forum was a continuation of Council's successful advocacy efforts on coastal hazard mitigation and adaptation planning and is planned to go ahead in the next council term."

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