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# Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

**Response ID:** IRCDF\_1354\_105

**Consent option:** Publish with name

**Submitted by:** Australian Coastal Society

## **Q1. What experience have you had with Commonwealth disaster funding support?**

Members of the Australian Coastal Society Pty Ltd (ACS) have been engaged for some time in disaster preparedness relating to the coast including climate change impacts, coastal adaptation, re-insurance policy development, coastal protection, coastal planning and long-term mitigation strategies for coastal erosion and coastal flooding.

## **Q2. How could Commonwealth funding support communities to reduce their disaster risk?**

ACS believes there are a number of ways to support communities in reducing their disaster risk such as:

- \* Increased investment in real-time data at finer scales from a diversity of social and ecological contexts to better capture (and thus respond to) vulnerabilities (i.e., census missing vulnerabilities).
- \* Investment in research (to generate data) that comprehensively demonstrate links between social and ecological processes and outcomes.
- \* Legislation/policy and action that address systemic inequalities towards supporting marginalised social and ecological communities.
- \* Establish shared vision(s) for (and investment pathways to deliver) social-ecological communities that reflect community needs.
- \* Investment should be weighted towards interventions and actions (rather than policy)

## **Q3. Please describe your understanding of Commonwealth disaster funding processes.**

not addressed

## **Q4. Are the funding roles of the Commonwealth, states and territories, and local government, during disaster events clear?**

not addressed

## **Q5. Is there any further information you would like to provide?**

The ACS believes that is important to have pre-disaster strategic planning that avoids maladaptation actions likely to arise from an emphasis on protecting private assets. This requires long-term partnership





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arrangement between state and federal governments to ensure consistency in the delivery of regional and local strategic adaptation plans that will mitigate risks associated with extreme events such as tropical cyclones and east coast lows. There is a need for communities working with local governments to embrace pre-disaster planning to address ever-increasing compounded disasters as discussed in a recent paper by Dr Tayanah O'Donnell (Deloitte), and ACS member Prof Bruce Thom.

O'Donnell, T. and Thom, B. 2022. "Coasts: a battleground in disaster preparedness, response and climate change adaptation". In Lukasiewicz and O'Donnell eds. *Complex Disasters Compounding, Cascading and Protracted*, Palgrave, Macmillan, Singapore.

The ACS has significant expertise in coastal management and disaster preparedness and is willing to engage further in discussion on coastal disaster preparedness, mitigation and impacts .

The ACS Chair, Prof Barbara Norman (ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions) has recently been appointed as Chair of the government's new Urban Policy Forum which has strong linkages with coastal planning for climate change and disaster preparedness. A recent article by Prof Norman addresses the need to invest in strategic planning to reduce future risk in urban areas, including the coast. <https://theconversation.com/urban-planning-is-now-on-the-front-line-of-the-climate-crisis-this-is-what-it-means-for-our-cities-and-towns-193452>

The ACS believes there is a need for long-term mitigation strategies for coastal erosion and disaster preparedness which focuses on the public good rather than private interests. Such programs need adequate funding preferably guided by a national coastal plan.

We would be pleased to elaborate on this submission at your convenience.

