

Members of Parliament

Mayors

Councillors

Distinguished Guests

Community Representatives

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today's seminar on Building Adaptive Capacity to Cope with Sea Level Rise promises to be invigorating, captivating and thought provoking, and I'm sure it will command your attention.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Allan Gear and I am your facilitator for the day.

Today I represent the Floodplain Management Authorities of NSW as that group's Executive Member – Planning, but in my paid life I am the Waterways Manager at Baulkham Hills Shire Council, so I have than just a passing interest in today's proceedings.

But for those Councils in NSW, indeed across Australia, with a coastal frontage the phenomena we will hear much about today is causing a rising disquiet.

Building adaptive capacity and planning appropriately and wisely for the future by recognising, respecting and managing for natural hazards and thus reducing risk and losses to communities is a realistic response for Councils in managing their own Duty of Care.

Indeed, that sounds very much like the State's current Floodplain Risk Management process.

Today's seminar will be just one step in the process and I commend it to you.

Allan Gear ME GradDip(E)Cr TMIEAust MPIA CPP