

Sea Level Rise Seminar

Building adaptive capacity to cope with sea level rise.

Thursday 29 May, 2008

Royal Motor Yacht Club, Newport

This seminar will examine the case for early government intervention on rising sea levels.

Sydney's northern beaches are surrounded by water, with Sydney Harbour to the south, the Tasman Sea to the east and the Hawkesbury and Pittwater estuaries to the north and west.

Coastal council areas across NSW, including the northern beaches, are likely to be affected by wave inundation and rising sea levels.

Planning studies are starting to take climate change and rising sea levels into account.

The insurance industry is also beginning a review of policies for coastline properties.

Against this background, international scientific advice is making it increasingly clear that sea level rise this century could exceed the higher range of IPCC predicted increases.

The NSW State Government has yet to provide adequate guidance to Councils on factoring in sea level rise into local environmental plans.

Some of the issues to be explored at this seminar include:

- Is it appropriate for the burden of determining future sea level rise and its effect on planning to be left to individual councils?
- What guidance and leadership should be provided by the federal and state governments to manage this issue?
- What is local government's capacity to adapt to sea level rise?

