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Tasmanian Government

28 OCT 2026

Mr Peter George MP
Member for Franklin
Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear ~~Mr~~ George Peter

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 20 August 2026 on behalf of a constituent requesting information about future-proofing our coastal communities.

Question

> ***My question comes from my constituent, Kathleen Murray, of Sandford. Residents of South Arm district have already experienced king tide flooding that is inundating homes and sections of the South Arm Highway and are piling up rows of sandbags to protect their properties from encroaching sand. Coastal risk modelling indicates that by the year 2100, in less than 75 years time, much of Lauderdale, Sanford, Clifton Beach and Cremorne, including key roads and water supply access points, will be permanently underwater. What practical plans does the government have to future proof coastal residences like Sandford to prepare for climate change and rising sea levels?***

Response

The Tasmanian Government is committed to taking practical action on climate change to reduce risks and make the most of opportunities. To help future proof coastal residences, we are implementing a range of practical measures, as outlined below.

Tasmania's Risk Assessment for Climate Change 2024 found that there are risks to the built environment due to extreme events and chronic climate impacts, including sea level rise and coastal inundation. *Managing Tasmania's Climate Risks and Opportunities*, the government response to the risk assessment, sets out a range of adaptation actions to respond to the risks, themes and information in the risk assessment.

The Tasmanian Government is also focused on building capability across government to respond to climate risks through the Tasmanian Government Climate Capability Framework. The Framework was released in 2025, and its implementation is ongoing. A range of resources is under development for Tasmanian Government employees to embed climate change in their decision making.

The Tasmanian Government is also helping businesses, communities and households to prepare for the changing climate, by delivering new fine-scale climate projections for Tasmania that will support improved decision making. The University of Tasmania's Climate Futures Group has been awarded a $1.8 million grant to deliver a new set of fine-scale climate projections for the state, along with a set of interpretive materials to support a range of users. Outputs of the project are expected in mid-2027.

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office is also supporting a project being undertaken by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT), funded by the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund. The Coastal Hazards Resilience Planning Project is a collaboration with coastal councils across Tasmania to:

- develop improved mapping and risk assessment methodologies focusing on priority coastal investigation areas
- create standardised planning tools and development controls applicable to the level of risk across different council areas
- establish a statewide framework for engaging with coastal communities across different risk contexts.

Coastal hazards management in Tasmania, like many jurisdictions across Australia, is a complex mosaic of policy and regulations. Many parts of the Tasmanian Government have a role to play. Similarly, local government also has responsibilities.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet is currently working on the Risk Information Portal Tasmania (funded through the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund) which will help local and state government agencies measure and manage disaster risks to critical infrastructure, including power, water, sewage, and communications.

Our Government will continue to review emerging science and work collaboratively with all levels of government to ensure coastal communities are well positioned to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Yours sincerely

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Environment and Climate Change