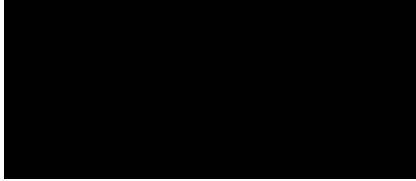




ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

1 April 2015



Dear 

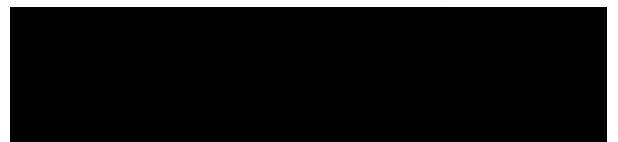
Re: draft Regional Coastal Plans

The National Committee on Coastal and Ocean Engineering (NCCOE), Engineers Australia hereby makes a submission on the three Victorian draft Regional Coastal Plans (the Plans), for the Gippsland, Central and South West Regions. It is the NCCOE's view that:

Generally, the three Plans have limited, if any, science or engineering content. The Plans would be significantly improved by incorporating such content, emphasising the importance of science and engineering to underpin coastal and marine policy, management and decision making in Victoria and Australia. The NCCOE recommends that the Plans be revised in this context.

The Plans' description of coastal processes does not reflect our present knowledge in Victoria. The Plans appear to ignore the recent findings of the four Victorian local coastal hazard assessments, some of which are yet to be released. For example, Action 2.3 is to "Develop methodologies for conducting flood and erosion studies in coastal areas" by 2020. This is the basis of the local coastal hazard assessments and, therefore, such methodology already exists in Victoria.

The Plans contain limited, if any, discussion about coastal and marine monitoring and data acquisition to measure and understand the present coastal processes and hazards, and thus identify any future changes. In Victoria at present, there is a scarcity of wave measurements and beach monitoring (beach profiles), however, this is not identified as a priority in any of the actions set out in the Plans. The NCCOE recommends that the Plans include an action to establish a coastal and marine monitoring and data acquisition program in Victoria.



In the context of the above comments, the NCCOE has published three coastal engineering guidelines, as follows:

Guidelines for Responding to the Effects of Climate Change in Coastal and Ocean Engineering

Coastal Engineering Guidelines for working with the Australian coast in an ecologically sustainable way

Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines in Coastal Management and Planning

These guidelines represent best practice in Australia for (i) Coastal Engineering, (ii) Coastal Climate Change, and (iii) Coastal Adaptation. The NCCOE recommends that the Victorian Coastal Council and the Coastal Boards use the three coastal engineering guidelines as key references in the Plans.

Please contact me if you require any clarification or any further information

Yours Sincerely

