

MEDIA RELEASE

Warringah and Pittwater Send Representatives to National Climate Change Forum

16 February 2010

Warringah Mayor Michael Regan and Pittwater Councillor David James will be attending the Federal Government's 'National Climate Change Forum – Adaptation Priorities for Australia's Coast' in Adelaide on 18-19 February.

Forum participation is by invitation only and will be attended by over 200 senior coastal decision-makers along with community and business leaders, research organisations, the Federal and State Government and Local Government representatives who are affected by coastal climate change impacts - as identified by the Department of Climate Change 2009 report.

Delegates at the forum will discuss the challenges of preparing Australia's coastal communities to manage the risks of climate change impacts, such as the potential risks to communities, industry and ecosystems in the coastal zone, as well as planning for coastal urban growth, planning responses to coastal climate change scenarios and what Australia can learn from international best practice.

"The Collaroy/Narrabeen beachfront has a long history of storm damage and coastal erosion and is classified as one of the most vulnerable stretches of coastline in Australia," said Warringah Mayor Michael Regan.

"I am pleased that Warringah will be represented at this nationally important forum."

"Pittwater is already revising its flood studies and coastal erosion management plans in light of expected increases in sea levels," said Pittwater Councillor David James.

"It's good to see the Federal Government bringing together all those who need solutions to this critical issue."

Warringah Mayor Michael Regan will take part in the National Adaptation Priorities panel which will be discussing immediate priorities to build adaptation capacity and national priorities for implementing coastal adaptation in the next 20 years.

For more information please phone:

- Anne Connon – SHOROC President (02) 9978 4002 **OR**
- Ben Taylor – SHOROC Executive Director (02) 9905 0095