



**Media Release**

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## **'Sink or Swim' - Preparing for Coastal Climate Change**

Amid the increasing realities of climate change - Australia's leading coastal scientists, planners and government agencies, will be meeting in Darwin this week to discuss the latest forecasts and approaches to dealing with the impact of climate change on our coasts.

Preparing for coastal climate change is one of the major coastal issues being discussed at the national, biennial **Coast to Coast 2008** Conference, being held at the Darwin Convention Centre from 18th - 22nd August, 2008.

Conference Convener and Northern Territory Government marine scientist Professor Karen Edyvane said Australia's premier national coastal conference **Coast to Coast** focuses debate, discussion and learning across the full range of current and emerging coastal and marine issues facing Australia's coasts today.

"**Coast to Coast 2008** will feature a comprehensive line-up of plenary and keynote speakers, thematic sessions, specialist workshops and symposia on some of the major challenges facing Australia's coasts," Professor Edyvane said.

"Some of the global and national challenges facing us include coastal climate change, coastal planning and integrated catchment management, whilst regional and local issues include managing tropical rivers and catchments, protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, community-engagement and Indigenous partnerships, pollution and minimising the impacts of large-scale coastal developments.

"**Coast to Coast 2008** will provide critical insights and solutions into these issues, and will be the first national conference to address the assessment, monitoring, planning and adaptation for coastal climate change."

Conference delegates include Commonwealth, State and Local Governments, Natural Resource Managers, leading research and education organisations, coastal and marine industries, coastal and marine consultants, managers, planners and engineers, NGOs, indigenous groups, user groups and many other community organisations.

"Some of our keynote speakers at the conference include Professor Will Steffan from the Australian National University and Dr Jo Mummery from the Department of Climate Change (coastal climate change), Professor Helene Marsh from James Cook University (Australia's tropical marine biodiversity), Joe Morrison from the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (Indigenous partnerships), Dr Nicole Gurrin from University of Sydney (coastal population change) and Ray Masini from the WA Department of Environment and Conservation (large-scale coastal developments)."

The conference will also see the inaugural launch of the national Australian Coastal Society; and also the Australia first national online coastal atlas 'OzCoasts' by the National Land and Water Resources Audit and Geoscience Australia.

**Media Note: for more information contact the Conference Convener, Professor Karen Edyvane on 0401 115786 - Media are welcome to attend**  
**Attachment: Coast to Coast 2008 Program**