



DUNCAN DEY

Councillor

Byron Shire Council

Duncan has 8 years' experience as a Byron Shire Councillor, decades of professional experience as a Flood Hydrologist, a love of water and a huge interest in Australia's Coast and in how we manage it.

Extreme events are termed "natural disasters" because they conflict with our fixed development, where it has crept too close to the coast. During his previous term 2012-16 on Byron Council, a CZMP was prepared but not adopted. Council also defended itself in a famous court case that ran for ten years (Belongil Beach).

Duncan's personal view is that the Australian dream of water frontage is incompatible with respect for the coast. At the Coastal Conference in Newcastle last month, presenters on community attitude made it clear that Australians value their public access to beaches above all other uses. Mobile stretches of our coast, and possibly all of it, should be enjoyed by the public rather than privatised.

Coastal issues are amplified by climate change including sea level rise (SLR). Australia is not prepared for the almost one metre rise predicted for about the end of this century, nor for the several metres of rise in centuries to come. IPCC investigations show that SLR is "locked in" - no amount of reduction in carbon emissions will change the future on SLR. Our knowledge of these things is new and we are sadly still burdened with business-as-usual approaches. The idea that we can safely invest in and inhabit hazardous coastal areas must be replaced with ideas of how to enjoy the coast and to support its fragile ecosystems.

There are many more coastal issues, not the least of which is the rush to get here (sea-change & tourism). This has huge impacts on existing communities as well as on the ecosystems that make the coast attractive in the first place. Coastal development also requires infrastructure, which is often a major contributor to causing impacts. We can do a lot better on reducing those impacts even without limiting growth.

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