



SHARON CADWALLADER

Mayor
Ballina Shire Council

I am seeking your help in standing for re-election as a NSW representative on the Association's Committee of Management with the aim of building on the work I have undertaken since being elected to the Committee 11 years ago. In 2015 I was elected Deputy Chair of the Association, and in 2019 I was elected Chair. It is a voluntary role and one that I am passionate about.

In December 2021, I was elected Mayor of Ballina Shire Council, after serving for 18 years as a councillor and Deputy Mayor. I therefore bring to the role of a NSW representative a strong record of experience, professionalism, reliability, integrity, and hard work.

I am proud of the achievements of the Association. We have engaged directly with Federal and State Environment Ministers to advocate for a comprehensive national plan to deal with the impacts of coastal hazards. One major achievement because of this advocacy campaign, which was conducted in association with ALGA and the Insurance Council of Australia, was the announcement by the Albanese Government of the Disaster Ready Funding program, which invests up to \$200m a year in disaster prevention and resilience projects.

The Covid-19 pandemic was very challenging, but I am pleased to say the Association managed to withstand the impact of the pandemic through stringent budget control and careful planning. The restrictions associated with the pandemic meant it was not possible to proceed with a major Association event until March 2023, when the Forum on Coastal Hazards was held at Fremantle, WA. The organisation is currently planning an annual conference for 2024, to be held in South Australia in May.

A key role of the Association is to work collaboratively with coastal councils across the nation to seek the best possible outcomes for coastal communities. The value of the relationships established with government representatives at all levels over the years cannot be underestimated. I know my way around Macquarie Street and Canberra so can therefore apply the benefit of these existing government networks to the work of the Association. This is particularly important in tackling the risks associated with climate change which are already affecting so many coastal areas around the nation.

Best regards,

Sharon
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