



NEIL REILLY

Mayor Kiama Municipal Council

My long-standing association with the Australian Coastal Councils Association, dates back to its inception as the National Sea Change Taskforce gives me a deep appreciation of its vital role. The ACCA's commitment to addressing critical issues such as coastal erosion, the need for more infrastructure and services, and the legal challenges of planning for climate change resonates with my professional and personal ethos.

With over 30 years of experience in communications and media management, I understand the importance of effectively conveying the urgency and significance of these issues. My background in working with diverse international business corporations, non-government, and government entities has equipped me with the skills to advocate for our coastal communities and interact effectively with stakeholders across all political spectrum.

My board experience in varied fields like Research and Statistics, Social Welfare and International Relations, and Indigenous Affairs will be invaluable in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by our coastal communities. In addition, my post-graduate qualifications in International Relations (Deakin 2008) and my status as a qualified member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors enhance my ability to contribute strategically and knowledgeably to the board.

As the Mayor of Kiama Municipal Council, I bring firsthand knowledge of local government challenges and opportunities, especially in managing the impacts of high population growth in peri-urban and regional coastal councils. I am keenly aware of the increasing demand for infrastructure and services and the impact of tourism and other factors on our coastal communities. In this pivotal period, where coastal councils face unprecedented challenges due to climate change and resource constraints, my skills will be instrumental in promoting ACCA's views and actions to politicians and decision-makers at all levels.

I am committed to ensuring equitable coverage and representation of our vast coastline and believe we can achieve this in representation from the middle north to the south of our shoreline. Joining the board of the Australian Coastal Councils Association would be an honour and an opportunity to further contribute to the preservation and sustainable development of Australia's coastal regions.

Neil
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