

COASTAL HABITAT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

An investigation has been conducted into the implications of climate change induced sea level rise - including effects of tidal and wave processes - on the shallow coastal and estuarine habitats in Robbins Passage / Boullanger Bay. The project provides a basis for exploring future scenarios for the environmental, economic and social values related to the area, and ultimately for their improved management.

Extensive geomorphological assessments were taken in the coastal foreshore, including photographic records for use in future comparative studies. A major deliverable of the project was a communication plan to share the research findings on the vulnerability of coastal habitats of the Circular Head region in order to support action in managing sea level rise. The Plan has led to public forums, discussion with land managers and an assessment of ways to work with nature, rather than against it to protect the land and achieve lifestyle and commercial goals.

The study found that healthy saltmarsh and seagrass beds help keep the water clean and clear, maintaining suitable conditions for a variety of human uses including aquaculture and recreational uses.

Coastal habitats and their vegetation work together to protect coasts from erosion, damping the effects of waves, holding sand in place with their roots and building up soil along the shoreline.

As well as being nature's first line of defence against erosion, they provide many other valuable benefits. It's worthwhile, both economically and to protect the lifestyles valued by the people of the Circular Head region, for the community to work together to look after the vast natural assets.

The insights and new approaches proposed in this project are expected to make a positive contribution to coastal decision making for many years to come, as the extension of this information continues to build momentum.



INFORMATION SHEET

ROBBINS PASSAGE—BOULLANGER BAY



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PO Box 338
30 Marine Terrace
Burnie Tasmania 7320

Phone: 03 6431 6285
Fax: 03 6431 7014
E-mail: nrm@cradlecoast.com
www.cradlecoastnrm.com