

DRAFT WOOLI VILLAGE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SUBMISSION

The Royal Society, Britain's highest scientific authority for the past 350 years published in September 2010 a report entitled 'Climate Change: A Summary of the Science'.

Key findings of the report include:

At paragraph 45:

*'Because of the thermal expansion of the ocean, it is very likely that for many centuries the rate of global sea-level rise will be at least as large as the rate of 20cm per century that has been observed over the past century'. Paragraph 49 discusses the additional, but **more uncertain**, contribution to sea-level rise from the melting of land ice.*

The 20cm rise stands in stark contrast to the assumed 90cm rise which underpins the 'Planned Retreat' strategy of the Draft Management Plan. Further, any rise in addition to the 20cm per century observed over the past century is '**uncertain**'.

At paragraph 56:

*'There remains the possibility that hitherto unknown aspects of the climate and climate change could emerge and lead to **significant** modifications in our understanding'.*

The use of the words 'significant modifications' suggests that changes in our understanding of climate science and the theory of sea-level rise may be more than merely incremental or incidental changes.

At paragraph 59:

*'climate science – including the substantial body of knowledge that is already well established, and the results of future research – is **the essential basis** for future climate projections and planning and must **be a vital component** of public reasoning in this complex and challenging area'.*

In contrast to the Draft Management Plan's speculative approach to likely sea-level rise, the report makes it clear in using the words 'essential basis' and 'a vital component' that the public debate and public reasoning in respect of this issue must be based on scientific fact and not scientific speculation.

Council should not adopt the Draft Management Plan.

Council should direct its staff to prepare a plan on the basis of a rate of rise of 20cm per century and adopt a strategy of 'planned defence' not 'planned retreat'

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