

Table comparing aspects of coastal policies for Australian states, prepared by the Environmental Defenders Office

	TASMANIA	QUEENSLAND	VICTORIA	NSW	SA	WA
Relevant Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft State Coastal Policy 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft State Planning Policy Coastal Protection 2009 Draft State Policy on Coastal Management 2009 Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Policy 1997 Coastal Protection Act 1979 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Coast Strategy 2004 Coastal erosion, Flooding and Sea level rise Policy 1992 State Planning Strategy for SA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Coastal Zone Management Policy 2001 State Planning Policy 2.6 – State Coastal Planning
Overall Comments	Too broad to provide guidance or effective coastal protection	<p>Strong guidance on coastal protection, with hierarchy of management principles</p> <p>Good interaction with other policies and legislation.</p>	Strong, clear guidance on coastal protection	<p>Strong, clear guidance on coastal protection.</p> <p>Good interaction with other legislation.</p>	<p>The Strategy is a broad vision document to guide Govt action only.</p> <p>Specific regulation left to the legislation and management plans for declared coastal districts.</p>	Broad guidance only, though does clear policy objectives.
Coastal zone	2km from high water mark (including offshore islands)	Up to 5km from coast or <10m AHD, including offshore islands (maps annexed)	3 nautical miles seaward and all land “directly influenced by the sea or directly influencing the coastline.”	1km inland and 3 nautical miles seaward (maps annexed)		Nearshore waters and coastal foreshore

	TASMANIA	QUEENSLAND	VICTORIA	NSW	SA	WA
Ribbon developments	Avoid ribbon development “as far as practicable” (cl.4.9)	Urban development to favour infill (clause 3.1(b)(i)) Ribbon development be avoided unless there is a compelling case for linear development (clause 3.1(b)(ii))	Design and siting guidelines to be reviewed to avoid ribbon development (clause 4.2(f))	Ribbon development “and other inappropriate housing developments on the coast” will be discouraged (2.3 key actions, p21)	Notes that linear development along the coast is inappropriate and should be managed (Objective 4).	Avoid linear or strip development (Policy 13). Major urban development outside settlement only where can demonstrate community need (SPP 5(xviii))
Canal estate developments	Not mentioned	Not explicitly prohibited, however extensive provisions regulating coastal development. Moratorium in effect on Gold Coast	New residential canal estates prohibited to ensure the protection of coastal and estuarine environments (clause 2.8)	Prohibited under <i>State Environment Planning Policy 50 – Canal Estate Development</i> . Ban is confirmed in the Coastal Policy (at 20).	Not explicitly prohibited but extensive provisions regulating coastal development in relevant documents	Strategy being developed. Currently assessed provisions under <i>Development Control Policy 1.8 – Canal Estates and Other Artificial Waterway Developments</i>
Foredune development	No specific reference (cf. 1996 Policy), though objective to conserve “natural values”	Foreshore development to be carefully planned to protect resources Land adjacent to tidal waters to be protected from development, other than in areas designated for declared maritime development projects (3.1(b)(iii))	Avoid development on primary dunes and in low-lying coastal areas (Policy 5)	Prohibited other than for essential, location-dependent services such as surf lifesaving clubs (clause 1.4)	Development in sensitive coastal areas such as dunes is to be “managed”.	Coastal foreshore should be transferred to the government and separated from adjacent development (SPP 5.1(vi)). Development should not be permitted on unstable, active frontal dunes.

	TASMANIA	QUEENSLAND	VICTORIA	NSW	SA	WA
Development and land use generally	Outcomes are broad and are to be “achieved or advanced” relative to values	Extensive development provisions	Extensive development provisions	Development provisions set out in the implementation plan.	Broad guidance. Development assessed under <i>Development Act 1993</i>	Extensive provisions on development
Coastal infrastructure	<p>”Adequate and appropriately located access” (4.14)</p> <p>Implementation guidelines note need for planning authorities to ensure coastal infrastructure within their council area.</p>	Comprehensive regulation of development (clause 4, Development Assessment Code).	Infrastructure to be “coastal dependant, sustainable, accessible, equitable and meet community needs.” (Section 4.3)	Avoid or minimise impacts. Strategic action plan in place.	-	<p>Locating new infrastructure away from coastal zone wherever practicable.</p> <p>“Intelligent siting and design” of infrastructure to avoid or mitigate impacts of natural hazards and visual impacts. (p20)</p>
Climate Change	Risks associated with climate change are to be “satisfactorily managed.” (4.11)	<p>Outcome is to adapt to expected impacts of climate change</p> <p>Allows for sea level rise of 0.8m by 2100.</p>	<p>Policy emphasises need to plan for climate change, and sea level rise of 0.8m by 2100.</p> <p>Comprehensive provisions on Climate Change (pp13-14, s.2.1)</p>	Investigations and monitoring to continue. Sea-level rise scenarios to be incorporated into planning decisions.	Recognises issues associated with climate change - policy to be developed.	Reference to sea level rise. Extensive discussion. Precautionary approach. Setbacks outlined to plan for sea level rise

	TASMANIA	QUEENSLAND	VICTORIA	NSW	SA	WA
Precautionary Principle	Planning scheme reviews to identify extent of precautionary approach. No requirement to adopt approach.	Does not explicitly refer to the precautionary principle, but adopts a precautionary approach.	Precautionary principle to be adopted for all decision-making, particularly in relation to climate change.	Explicitly adopts precautionary principle as “risk averse” approach to development assessment	Precautionary approach a guiding principle (p5)	“Coastal management requires a precautionary approach”
Coastal hazards	Risks must be contained to ‘acceptable levels’ (4.10)	Extensive references. Redraft to contain greater certainty as to management	Hazards defined and ensure that development is protected.	High priority	4.2 devoted to coastal hazards. Action plan included	Plans for coastal developments must address coastal hazards, which are to be managed to minimise harm.

The draft Policy fails to address the Commonwealth Coastal Policy which provides State Governments with a number of principles regarding the management of coastal resources (<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/publications/coastal-policy/index.html>)

The Commonwealth Coastal Policy (adopted by inter-governmental agreement in 1995) provides Australian, State and Territory Governments with the following principles for the management of coastal resources:

1. The coastal zone needs to be managed within a framework of multiple-use management.
2. The impact of decisions on economic, environmental, social and cultural values should be identified and determined before decisions are made, taking account of long-term and cumulative impacts.
3. A precautionary approach should be used in decision-making.
4. The marine environment should be monitored to ensure assessments are accurate, and monitoring should trigger further management actions if impacts differ significantly from those predicted.
5. A user-pays principle should be applied to access and development costs, including the equitable application of economic instruments and the need for special consideration of 'existence value' and disadvantaged groups.
6. Natural physical processes, biological diversity and biological processes should be safeguarded and maintained.