

RETREAT AS A MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO COASTAL RISK: A CASE STUDY FROM THE FLEURIEU PENINSULA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MAJOR FINDINGS AND OUTCOMES:

The uncertainty of the future and how communities and governments will adapt to coastal and other risks will impact future generations, and the state of both natural and built environments. Long-term strategic planning and adaptation actions to compensate for a transformation further into the current risk society will allow for a sustainable future. As Bardsley and Rogers (2010, p. 13) state, '*as individuals and organisations apply adaptation strategies there will be both successes and failures, but a learning orientation to societal change will enable improvements in management over time.*' This societal change must develop into a greater enhancement of community engagement and empowerment over their society's respective region. Community knowledge is a powerful tool, and if a community can embrace, understand and appreciate the value of an action, implementation will enjoy a higher success rate. This can greatly enhance the sustainability and protection of a region – especially at the coast, where the cultural association and appreciation is high.

Additionally, a societal change must occur within governance practices. To decrease the vulnerability of systems from climate change and coastal risks, governing organisations and individuals will need to make complex, and possibly unpopular planning decisions, such as planned retreat (Bardsley & Rogers 2010). Adger (2003, p. 388) supports this stating:

The effectiveness of strategies for adapting to climate change depends on the social acceptability of options for adaptation, the institutional constraints on adaptation, and the place of adaptation in the wider landscape of economic development and social evolution.

The future of societies across the world is still uncertain as the risks increase and a transition into the sec-

