

As a Tasmanian resident, I have been appalled by the devastating impact of the recent fires, and the extreme weather events that accompanied them. It is clear that the resources of emergency services are stretched to the limit - personnel from interstate and overseas were called on to assist - and we are barely into the fire season yet.

Tasmania has also suffered severe flooding, storm surges and coastal erosion as a result of rising sea levels and more damaging wind, rain and swells. For example, on Bruny Island which I know well, the narrow isthmus known as The Neck is experiencing increasing erosion on both sides, and waves break across the roadway several times a year due to conjunction of high tides and high winds/swells. In the not too distant future, these trends could destroy the road linking the two parts of the island, and turn it back into two islands again, with severe consequences for the tourism industry, and social and community life.

I urge the Committee to seek and accept the best scientific advice on climate change and the trend towards increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, and ensure that precautionary strategies are devised and implemented to reduce the future impacts.

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