



MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC

PO BOX 104, WYNYARD TAS 7325 TEL: 03 6443 8600 FAX: 03 6443 8603

LACK OF ACTION ON HELLYER BEACH EROSION

Erosion at Hellyer Beach has progressed at such an alarming rate over the last twelve months that properties and services to this area are threatened. Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest has met and corresponded with the Minister and Government Departmental officers on many occasions, via letter, phone and email, over this time seeking to have this issue addressed before all the coastal reserve area is eroded and private property, including homes, are destroyed.

“Coastal erosion is an important issue facing many of our coastal communities. In spite of many months of warning, Government inaction at Hellyer Beach has resulted in State managed coastal reserve land disappearing at an alarming rate, resulting in serious and urgent threats to homes and private property” Ms Forrest said.

“This matter must be addressed and resolved immediately to ensure that no further land is lost and properties do not have their foundations undermined and ‘fall into the river’” Ms Forrest stated.

Ms Forrest has also worked closely with the Circular Head Council in an effort to ensure timely action on this issue from the State Government that has to this time, not resulted in practical action.

“The Circular Head Council have been willing to assist in redressing this issue, but as the land is under the control and responsibility of the State Government, direct intervention by the State is required” Ms Forrest said.

“The most frustrating aspect of this matter is that if the problem had been addressed when first raised, the task would have been significantly smaller and the costs much less” Ms Forrest said.

“The issue of State Government responsibility for private property damage must also be of concern to Government as the Minister and Government department have been well informed of this issue for almost twelve months” Ms Forrest said.

Ms Forrest calls on all political parties and candidates for the March 20 election to familiarise themselves with this issue and ensure the necessary work is undertaken as soon as possible.

21 February 2010

For further information contact Ruth Forrest on 0419 879 524.