

26.11.09
Sea level rise Broome

Grim picture is painted over rising sea levels

A NEW report on sea level rise released by the Federal Department of Climate Change paints a bleak picture of Broome in the year 2100.

According to the report, world sea levels are predicted to rise by 1.1m on 2009 levels by the year 2100 which would lead to between 157,000 and 247,600 buildings across Australia at risk of inundation by 2100.

Federal Climate Change and Water Minister Penny Wong said residential buildings along the country's coastline were not the only ones at risk.

"Major coastal infrastructure that underpins our economy, such as airports and ports will also be at risk from climate change," she said.

As illustrated in the graphic, Broome International Airport,

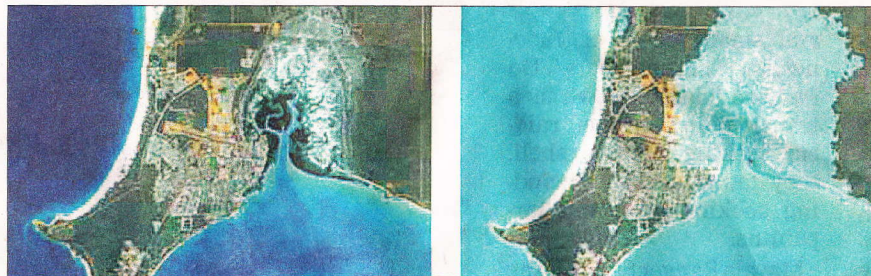
if still situated in its current location, would be partially submerged by the sea level rise along with parts of Roebuck Estate and Chinatown.

The graphic shows the extensive expansion of Dampier Creek due to the rise, with large areas of the Broome peninsula inundated including areas of Old Broome around Town Beach.

The total submerged area is estimated to be 21 per cent of the Broome town site.

According to the report the cost, in current value, of residential buildings at risk of inundation throughout the State is between \$4.9 and \$7.7 billion.

The report illustrates increased problems with sea level rise from storm surge and higher than normal tidal movements could prove to be even more destructive.



An aerial view of Broome today (left) and what the town site could look like in 2100 (right) given an estimated 1.1m sea level rise.

Crashes can now be reported online

TRAFFIC crashes can now be reported online rather than at a police station.

WA Police said spending 20 minutes on the website www.crashreport.com.au would be perfect for the 100,000 people every year who spent up to an hour at police stations report-

ing crashes - many of which were minor.

Police receive every online report and can still investigate the accidents if they need to be investigated.

The website links live to the Department of Transport to verify data and an alert is sent

to police if details, such as a licence plate and vehicle description, do not match government records.

Police say they should still be called to crashes where someone was injured or if drivers were affected by drugs or alcohol.