



MEDIA RELEASE

2 October 2025

Huon Valley innovation on national stage

Huon Valley Council's Manager of Environmental Sustainability will represent Council as part of a Tasmanian-led team competing in the 2025 Disaster Challenge in Hobart on 14 October.

The Tasmanian team is one of only three national finalists and will showcase a groundbreaking project, *Thriving coastal futures in southern Tasmania*, developed here in the Huon Valley.

Focusing on the Garden Island Sands community, the project empowers residents to tackle coastal erosion through community led, nature-based solutions. It brings together residents, Council, and researchers in partnership—providing a framework that could be replicated across Australia.

Garden Island Sands is experiencing severe coastal erosion due to the effects of climate change, sea level rise, and increased storms, leading to significant loss of land and threatening properties. Local resident Kelsie Fractal said, “we just need some support. Communities have the power to achieve great things. And sometimes it’s better to just give them a bit of assistance and let them solve the problem.”

Mayor Sally Doyle praised the project’s significance:

“This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase how local innovation can address real challenges facing our coastal communities. Having our Council represented at this level highlights the strong collaboration and forward-thinking happening right here in Tasmania.”

The Disaster Challenge brings together emerging talent from across Australia to develop innovative approaches to major natural hazards such as bushfires, floods, storms, and cyclones.

The winning team will receive \$5,000 in prize money and the opportunity to further develop its concept with Natural Hazards Research Australia.

For all media enquiries – contact:

Siobhan Coughlan
Communications & Media
Huon Valley Council
communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au
(03) 6264 0305



Event details

- **What:** 2025 Disaster Challenge National Final
- **When:** 14 October 2025, 10am–12pm
- **Where:** RACV Hobart Hotel & livestream
- **Cost:** Free, public welcome

Register to attend in person or online: events.humanitix.com/natural-hazards-research-australia-disaster-challenge

For all media enquiries – contact:

Siobhan Coughlan
Communications & Media
Huon Valley Council
communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au
(03) 6264 0305