Rob Stokes MP

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
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MEDIA RELEASE

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WHALES ACROSS NSW IN TIME FOR WORLD OCEANS DAY

Humpback whales up and down the NSW coast on their great migration highlight the importance of our oceans and the creatures within, from the smallest of fish to the mighty humpbacks.

Environment Minister Rob Stokes said the bi-annual whale migration was another reason to celebrate in the week where people across the world have marked World Oceans Day, as more whales mean more opportunities for people across NSW to share one of nature's most remarkable events.

"From Byron Bay to Bateman's Bay, at Bilgola, Bondi headland or Bouddi National Park, locations along the coastline offer some of the very best lookouts to watch the passing parade," Rob Stokes said.

"The NSW Government is committed to making national parks more accessible and whale watching is a great way of encouraging families to spend time outdoors.

"As well as the whales, there are also seals, little penguins, dolphins and amazing sea birds having a coastal adventure of their own in the cooler months.

"A simple way everyone can make a difference to the quality of our environment is to help prevent litter entering our oceans, especially plastic."

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is the State's foremost authority on whales, responsible for their protection and conservation providing safe passage when they are in NSW waters and assisting, where possible, any injured or entangled animals.

Regulations in NSW stipulate that vessels should not go within 100m of a whale (or 300m if a calf is in the pod), and also includes the area directly in front of or behind a whale out to 300m.

People can start their own coastal adventure at www.wildaboutwhales.com.au, to find the best spots in our national parks to see whales and to enjoy other great coastal adventures.

More information about whales can be viewed at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au.