

ALAN FRASER, [REDACTED] LAKE WONBOYN NORTH NSW

The following in point form are my objections to the proposed Coastal Reforms proposed by the Government of NSW.

The reforms are a threat to all coastal regional communities and the infrastructure of the State.

The State Government has rejected Commonwealth Minister Hunt's call for a national approach to climate change and is proposing to leave all key decisions to local councils and empowering them to change their approach at whim. The NSW Government has elected not to work with the Federal Government on a collaborative approach.

The reforms make no attempt at all to build resilience into our coastal communities – again contrary to various recommendations and contrary to what many communities are doing around the world. Again the opposite approach is taken – the aim seems to be to increase the vulnerability of every area facing any sort of coastal erosion problem and whatever the cause, historical, man-made, new or old. All must grass over the dune and see how that goes.

Surely no Federal, State or Local government can afford the totally unnecessary hits to assets and infrastructure on their balance sheets that these reforms will bring. The rank and file private property owners in affected areas, will be unable to bear such financial loss, which will ruin many families. which will effectively bankrupt entire communities. Totally lacking is a modern,

The legislation is an attack on all property owners – with investors, those with weekend properties and holiday homes particularly targeted. Their properties are not even taken into account under the proposed reforms, except to note that they will save land tax if their properties fall into the sea. The loss of the properties themselves is ignored under these reforms! The NSW Government also proposes replacing coastal fixed property boundaries with ambulatory boundaries, with property owners unable to protect their properties by these burdensome reforms and then losing title to some or all of their property without compensation under this new ambulatory title.

Apparently, the legislative form of these property title changes are not to be released until after the closing date for submissions. This is not democratic and suggests the NSW Government has no respect for property owners.

The fines stated in the legislation have been dramatically increased despite what the NSW Coalition had previously said was too much.

The legislation also proposes that vegetation be limited to 1m in height so as to provide for views for the public. There is no consideration of the indigenous vegetation specific to the area. Our coastal foreshore is comprised largely of Ti-tree. The suggestion to alter this is vandalism.

This reform package poses a threat to the property of this State, the economic prosperity of its communities and small business, infrastructure and further investment in NSW. They should be withdrawn immediately and await a national response co-ordinated by Commonwealth Environment Minister Hunt.

Alan Fraser

