



Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

Member of Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

**P.O. Box 2127
Boronia Park 2111**

Coastal Reform Team
Office of Environment and Heritage
PO Box A290
Sydney South
NSW 1232
26 February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our Society welcomes management of our important coastal areas according to the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Both public and private land along NSW's coastline and nearby wetlands is highly valued by the people of NSW. Threats from climate change, alienation, pollution and overdevelopment cause significant damage to the coastal zone which is important for the preservation of the state's biodiversity, a sustainable tourism industry and much enjoyed recreational activities. The inclusion of community engagement mechanisms is important in the decision-making regards development within coastal areas.

We suggest some further points which we feel will strengthen good strategic planning and management of our coastal areas to ensure that they remain available for the use and enjoyment of future generations:

- Current protections for coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests, especially related to concurrence and assessment should be retained in the SEPP;
- Sensitive lakes that are near to coastal wetlands and equally subject to the pressures of over-development should be also protected under the SEPP;
- The requirements for the development of coastal management programs by Councils must be mandatory and enforceable;
- Greater attention is needed to the management of climate change impacts especially how migratory species along the coast line will adapt to possibly extreme changes to their habit areas;
- The Coastal Management Bill needs to set limits on development and mandate requirements for decision makers;

- The major hazard presented by sea level rise needs better recognition in the Coastal Manual to be prepared by Councils;
- There is too much discretion for councils to prepare their management plans - the manual needs to guide plans which are genuinely strategic and based on principles of ESD;
- There is a need for good science to support the development of coastal plans;
- The insidious problems of cumulative impacts must be identified and considered during planning and development assessment;
- Any changes to maps should not be at the political whim of Council;
- Maps should be based on the current coastal zone boundary and any regular reviews which may be required should be via a transparent process backed by science and proper community consultation.

Thank you for an opportunity to comment in these important reforms in management of the highly valued coastal zone of NSW.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Merchant
President.