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Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2016 8:17 AM
To: OEH PD Coastal Reforms Mailbox
Cc: Craig Hillman
Subject: Objection to Stage II Coastal Reform proposals

I have read the proposal documentation and Object strongly.
The proposals are far worse in regard to outcomes for coastal communities than anything Labor proposed and represent a new found alignment with hard line Green philosophy.

Senior OEH officers are already advising that the NSW government will not fund protection and that only Planned Retreat will be funded, the department is already applying Draft Legislation as policy - Has the elected government lost control of this process? The question can now be legitimately asked.

Some key points of objection include

Removal of the right of owners / individuals to protect private property.

The proposal sets out to highlight an imaginary conflict between existing fixed boundary property titles and the public beach, there is no conflict, Australia's property title system is clear, robust and world standard. The proposal is an attack on existing property rights and seeks ultimately to impose a non compensatory planned retreat policy in NSW.

Unworkable emergency/temporary protection limitations including the mandated removal of temporary works after only 30 days which in many cases would leave the coast subject to the very same forces that caused the erosion.

A complicated framework of objectives relating to mapped areas for which maps have not been released

A newly formed Coastal Council with no localised representation and a Green bias. A coastal police force with the power to audit councils and individuals with a constantly changing set of rules. Offering no actual assistance, only punitive policy which sets out to remove property rights.

A coastal manual that can be modified with no oversight of the Parliament of NSW - a blank Green cheque.

A Cost Benefit analysis that is fundamentally flawed and biased, one that excludes assets owned by non resident rate payers from the analysis and excludes the many millions of state land tax from the benefit statement. This fundamental bias will favor Sydney's largely residential coastal suburbs and disadvantage other coastal communities.

A funding document that offers nothing and no solutions from a government that collects tens of millions in land tax from these coastal communities and a government that anticipates Billions in revenue from coal mining, an activity we are told that is a key cause of climate change / sea level rise.

The consultation process has been negligible and a failure, departmental officers have been unable to answer key questions with regard to the Stage II proposals and public consultation has been given little effort with key locations overlooked.

Public consultation should be extended immediately and consideration be given to a "back to the drawing board" review.

The proposals are not acceptable to anyone but the Greens who are keen to see the demise of coastal communities and the reinstatement of the natural environment.

Craig Hillman


Sent from my iPad