

**From:** noreply@environment.nsw.gov.au  
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Save Wyong Trees

**Q 7: Comments or questions:**

Save Wyong Trees submission on the coastal reform package Preamble: Save Wyong Trees is a community group formed in response to Wyong Council discarding tree protection policies that has resulted in on-going destruction of trees across the Wyong Shire. Members and supporters come from a wide spectrum of the community including education, health, environmental law and a concerned arborist and tree services contractor. Our key objectives are: 1. Reverse Wyong Council's tree destruction policy adopted in April 2015, and reinstate the old tree protection policy 2. Promote wider pro tree policies and activities in Wyong LGA that: • Protect existing trees and other native flora • Establish or regenerate and manage native flora providing safe and healthy urban tree canopies. Introduction: We generally welcome the Government's efforts to develop new coastal protection laws for strategic planning and management of the coast in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and for the long-term public interest. Issue 1: Coastal zone/coastal management areas As the terms for each of the proposed new Coastal Management Areas have not been used in the past it is important that they be further refined to provide clear and consistent protection for coastal environmental and public interest values, including within the Coastal Use Area. We are concerned that the criteria for these areas and the implications for the development of management plans will weaken environmental protection. In fact we believe that regardless of the nomenclature existing protections for coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests should be retained and enhanced in the new SEPP, including important concurrence and assessment requirements. Objectives for protecting and enhancing the environment should be included in the Coastal Use Area. The existing coastal zone boundary (generally 1km inland) should be used to retain current protection measures, and be fixed (unable to be increased or decreased). Issue 2: Climate change impacts We are very concerned that the increased incidence of severe weather events as a result of climate change will continue to be used to justify (on public safety grounds) the weakening or removal of environmental (including trees) protection policies and practices as we have seen by the current Wyong Council. The coastal reform package must provide clearer requirements and guidance for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including in relation to flora and fauna species migration, more extreme weather events, increased flooding and inundation and sea level rise. Issue 3: Coastal Management Programs We believe that under the new planning processes there is a risk that councils will not be required to fully research the impacts of elements of any coastal management plan. Unfortunately, the current Wyong Council is characterised by secretive processes devoid of adequate community consultation. We are very concerned that when this proposed planning process is implemented councils could move directly from Stage 1 (scoping study) to Stage 4 (exhibition and adoption of a Coastal Management Program) without addressing Stage 2 (detailed studies of vulnerabilities and opportunities) and Stage 3 (response identification and evaluation), particularly given that the consideration of important issues, such as social and cultural values, vegetation, biodiversity and ecological integrity, hydrology, and water quality is required at Stage 2.

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**Q 8: Please indicate if you do not want your submission or any part/s of it published**

N/A

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