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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 February 2016 4:36 PM
To: OEH PD Coastal Reforms Mailbox
Subject: 275_Wiggin_ACF-CC_250216: Fw: submission on Coastal Management Bill. 2016

Importance: High

To: Coastal Reforms Team,

I sent a copy of the submission on the Coastal Management Bill 2016 by Australia Post today, on behalf of the Australian Conservation Foundation- Central Coast branch.

Please could **replace** the document that I mailed to you, with the letter below.

Please confirm that you are able to do this.

Many thanks,

John Wiggin
branch President. ACF-CC

Australian Conservation Foundation - Central Coast branch

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Coastal Reform Team
Office of Environment and Heritage

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25th February 2016

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to lodge a submission on the Coastal Management State Environment Policy as follows:

The NSW State Government's efforts in producing these new coastal protection reforms is welcome, for planning and management of coastal issues, using the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and in the long term interest of local communities.

The major issue facing the NSW State Government is that it can circumvent any/ all of the planning documents using the 'flexible' regulatory environment: to achieve effective and

meaningful protection for the coast, key controls and decision making requirements must be established in legislation.

Requirements for councils developing coastal management programs set out in the proposed new manual must be mandatory and enforceable to ensure councils are using the best science, engaging local communities and adequately assessing and responding to threats to the coastal environment.

The local council amalgamation in NSW will cause issues to the decision making on coastal problems; such is the case of Gosford and Wyong councils interpretation of “Sea Level Rise” (Wyong Council stated last year that it does not believe in SLR, whereas Gosford gave new low figures for SLR).

The Coastal Manual provides too much discretion for local councils. Key components of the Manual must be obligatory for councils and enforceable via the legislation.

Mechanisms should be established under the new framework to ensure that coastal management planning and impact assessment is carried out by qualified experts and subject to rigorous external review.

The new framework must include mechanisms for ensuring that the cumulative impact of development on sensitive environments is taken into account in coastal management planning and development assessment.

The reform package provides limited integration between coastal management and floodplain management. This is a significant gap, given the overlap between increased coastal flooding and inundation, with threats of sea level rise and increased storminess and more intense catchment runoff arising from climate change.

Given the significant environmental values and the vulnerability of the coastal zone, existing coastal land acquisition provisions need to be retained.

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.

Requirements for councils developing coastal management programs set out in the proposed new Manual must be mandatory and enforceable to ensure that councils are using the best science, engaging local communities and adequately assessing and responding to threats to the coastal environment.

Protections for other land and water bodies identified as being ecologically sensitive to impacts from coastal development activity (coastal environment area) should be consistent with the protections for coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests, and the management objectives for these areas should be accorded higher priority than Coastal Vulnerability and Coastal Use Areas. This is seen as a protection for the local coastal lagoons in the Gosford Council region.

The existing 'coastal zone' will be redefined using four new Coastal Management Areas: Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforests, Coastal Vulnerability Area, Coastal Environment Area, Coastal Use Area.

I welcome the decision that a new independent NSW Coastal Council will replace the statutory NSW Coastal Panel and the NSW Coastal Expert Panel that was established to provide advice on the current reforms. The new NSW Coastal Council will provide independent advice to the Minister for Planning on coastal planning and management issues and conduct performance audits of a local council's implementation of its coastal management program.

Yours sincerely,

John Wiggin

branch President. ACF-CC
