

NSW SES Submission to the NSW Coastal Reforms Package

NSW SES thanks the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for the opportunity to make submission to the development of the Coastal Management Reforms Package and the review of the Coastal Management Bill 2015.

Please find below our key recommendations.

- The NSW SES agrees that any coastal management program continue to be separate from matters dealt with the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989. However the reforms package represents an opportunity to make explicit NSW SES' role related coastal storms, and/or determining trigger mechanisms for response to coastal erosion events (e.g coastal storm warnings). It should be made unambiguous that NSW SES has a minimal role in Coastal Zone Emergency Protection Works under the proposed legislation (for example placing large sand bag protection of coastal property from coastal erosion).
- The Coastal Management Bill 2015 does not explicitly include tsunami in the definition of coastal hazards. The tsunami risk in NSW, and indeed nationally, has traditionally and adequately been dealt with by emergency management sectorial arrangements. New research is increasing the understanding of tsunami risk in Australia, and emergency pre-planning for tsunami risk is advancing incrementally. The Coastal Reform Package presents the opportunity for tsunami risk to be considered in a Landuse Planning and Coastal Floodplain Risk Management context, in addition to existing preparedness by emergency management agencies such as the NSW SES. To this end the reforms package should include considerations consistent with current best practice in the Landuse Risk Management sector, including, for example state planning legislation, instruments, guidelines, strategies, and local government arrangements.
- NSW SES considers it necessary for inclusion of emergency management representation on the independent NSW Coastal Council, at least initially in the early phase of its Terms of Reference.
- The NSW SES recommends it is consulted early and on an ongoing basis throughout the development (and future review) of the new Coastal Management Manual, to ensure that the legislated roles and responsibilities of the NSW SES in emergency management of coastal storms and floods are accurately described. It is noted that the draft Manual Stage 2 P18-19, detail water level anomalies as a consequence of tsunami. NSW SES recommends that reference to the tsunami hazard be applied consistently throughout all appropriate chapters of the Coastal Manual.

For enquires related to this submission and any ongoing consultation, please contact Belinda Davies, Manager Emergency Risk Management, Emergency Management Directorate, NSW SES State Headquarters (02 4251 6111).

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