

Dear Sir/Madam,

I 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.

However I am concerned that the proposed new changes may lead to weaker protection for sensitive coastal environments by:

- Dividing the coastal zone into four distinct areas with weaker protections for areas identified for development
- Removing important oversight by the Department of Planning and Environment
- Providing significant discretion for councils and the Minister - key requirements will not be mandatory or enforceable

Please ensure that:

- The proposed new Coastal Management Areas are further refined to provide clear and consistent protection for coastal environmental and public interest values
- There are clearer requirements and guidance for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Key elements of the coastal management package, including key requirements under the Coastal Manual, are mandatory and enforceable.
- The functions and membership of the NSW Coastal Council are expanded to provide advice on an integrated approach to coastal management, including policy, strategic functions in relation to the new Act, and community engagement.
- Other key elements of the reform package, including coastal zone mapping and the draft text of the proposed new State Environmental Planning Policy are publicly exhibited prior to the Bill being finalised.

Yours sincerely,
Will Pearson
2350