



NCA
NSW Coastal Alliance
www.nswcoastalalliance.org

19 January 2017

The Director
Environment & Building Policy
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir / Madam

Coastal Reforms – draft coastal SEPP

The NSW Coastal Alliance (NCA) represents a coalition of NSW coastal communities. Our objectives include working with government at all levels to achieve fair and reasonable coastal outcomes.

The NSW government released the draft Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy and Maps on 11 November 2016 but has neglected to include Coastal Vulnerability Mapping. In accordance with the Coastal Management SEPP: *Explanation of Intended Effect*, this mapping was to be undertaken by the Office of Environment and Heritage.

This critical mapping has not been provided and according to NSW State Government representatives at the Erina Information Session 9 December 2016, does not exist.

According to NSW Government representatives at the Erina Information Session on 9 December 2016, the *Explanation of Intended Effect* is a legal document presented to Parliament during debate on the Coastal Management Bill. Full consultation together with provision of all mapping of the 4 management areas described in the Bill was promised to Parliament for the many thousands of people of NSW who are now affected by the proposed SEPP.



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Full mapping has not occurred. The NCA has serious concerns about the draft SEPP, the inconsistent, inaccurate, and incomplete, mapping. For example (i) the 'coastal vulnerability area' has not been mapped at all and the layer/legend for this area has not been provided, and (ii) the layer/legend 'Local Government Coastal Hazard Map' appears not to be a legally defined area and as such may be unenforceable.

Instead we have been provided reference to a 'Local Government Coastal Hazard Map' with no reference within the *Explanation of Intended Effect* and no legal definition in the Coastal Management Act 2016. When questioned about this and the responsibility for mapping in general, representatives of the NSW Government agreed at Erina on Friday 9 December 2016, that the mapping was the responsibility of the NSW State Government.

In our opinion, informed comment on the Wetland Mapping is also severely constrained by the fact that existing State Government Mapping of wetlands has not been provided for consultation.

How can any reasonable person or Authority make an informed comment or submission when the information for discussion and consultation does not appear to meet legal requirements and does not appear to accurately describe, and/or omits the hazard claimed to affect land?

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Is it your intention that the NSW State Government will now ignore its apparent legal obligations and undertakings to Parliament and the people of NSW?

NCA also has serious concerns about the lack of public awareness and paucity of information sessions. We are particularly concerned at the impact of these proposals on many thousands of unsuspecting NSW Coastal Residents and many thousands of residents of inland areas of Western Sydney who are now classified as being within the coastal zone and officially affected by the draft SEPP.

Regards

Pat Aiken
Regional Coordinator

Michael Fox
Regional Coordinator