APPLICATION OF POLICY

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In particular, local councils in the coastal region and expert committees will be given an opportunity to nominate tidal lakes, lagoons, bays or estuaries which might be covered by the policy, for consideration by the Director of Planning.

The policy will apply to the full length of the New South Wales coast with the exception of the more urbanised areas of Wollongong and Newcastle and the Sydney region (stretching from Port Hacking to Broken Bay).

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COASTLINE HAZARDS POLICY

As part of the Government's commitment to effective coastline management, it has also introduced a Coastline Hazards Policy to assist local government in dealing with coastline hazards. The policy covers a range of planning and structural measures which provide for:

- the development and implementation of management measures and works to reduce potential damage from oceanic processes in existing development areas;
- construction of works for the conservation and improvement of beaches and public reserves;
- the provision of specialist technical advice on coastal hazards resulting from oceanic processes. The coastline hazards program will be administered by the Minister for Public Works.

To assist in the implementation of this policy a Coastline Management Manual is being produced to enable those responsible for the management of the coastline to reach balanced, merit based decisions. The Coastline Management Manual can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, State Office Block, Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000.

ENQUIRIES

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New South Wales
Coastal Policy

PRESERVING OUR COASTLINE
FOR THE FUTURE
INTRODUCTION

THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT has a mandate to ensure responsible management of the 1,000 kilometre strip of land along the New South Wales coast.

The effective management of this land has been plagued by a history of haphazard development and an overall dearth of a clear conservation strategy. This is not acceptable.

The Government is confronted with the reality that population pressures on the coastal area are increasing. The coastal area already supports a population of almost three million people and population growth in the far north and south coast regions alone is expected to be 50% and 43%, respectively, by the year 2016. The New South Wales coast is also experiencing growing popularity as a tourist destination. More than ten million people visit annually, and the majority of these are from other parts of New South Wales and other States.

What is important to the people of New South Wales is an assurance that the Government can accommodate competing demands on a finite resource in a responsible and systematic way.

Government Guidelines for the New South Wales Coast were circulated in March, 1989. Following extensive consultations and consideration of public submissions on the guidelines, the Government has now released the New South Wales Coastal Policy covering the full range of coastal management issues.

The primary aim of the Coastal Policy is to protect the coastline and beaches for the enjoyment of future generations and to ensure that coastal development is balanced, well planned and environmentally sensitive.

MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND

The Government will continue to bring unique coastal land into public ownership.

In 1973, the New South Wales Government began buying coastal land with unique scenic and environmental qualities. Almost 13,000 hectares have been protected as National Parks and public reserves.

Under the Coastal Policy:

- The Government will register the title of all beaches currently under Crown control in the name of the people of New South Wales and will dedicate these beaches for public use.
- The Government will acquire land which is environmentally sensitive, of scenic importance or critical to the maintenance of public access under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme.
- Crown land which is found to have conservation significance will be dedicated or reserved for public purposes or transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Plans of Management will be prepared for all coastal Crown land reserved or dedicated for a public purpose.
- Controls on the use of off-road vehicles in National Parks will be strengthened.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

When providing for urban, commercial, industrial or tourist uses, the Government will ensure the nature and form of development activity is environmentally sensitive. Protection of prime agricultural land will be a high priority.

Location of Coastal Development

Urban development on the coast will be limited primarily to areas adjacent to existing towns and cities.

Major tourism development will generally be clustered around identified tourist growth centres to minimise intrusion on the coastline.

Under the Coastal Policy:

- Local environmental studies will be required for any development in the coastal area that requires rezoning.
- Regional tourism developments which identify areas with high tourism potential will have to be considered when preparing planning instruments.
- Re-zoning of rural, non-urban or environmental protection zones for urban development will not be permitted in areas isolated from cities and towns.

Quality of Development

The Government will ensure that the height and concentration of development in the coastal area is sensitive and appropriate to the local environment.

Under the Coastal Policy:

- Buildings with an intrinsically visual or physical impact will not be permitted.
- The height of buildings in areas of major coastal towns will be determined by the prevailing landscape.
- Development will be prohibited on beaches, frontal dunes and undervalue headlands.

Development proposals will have to conform with specific design and planning standards to control height, setback and scale. Specifically, these standards will ensure that public setback lines guarantee public access, and beaches/shoreline open space are not overshadowed.

- Subject to the outcome of current consultations, planning guidelines for coastal estate development proposals will be introduced.

- More stringent environmental assessment provisions will apply for marine developments.

- A Coastal Urban Planning Strategy will be developed to ensure that continuous urban development does not proliferate and that it proceeds in a more orderly, efficient and environmentally sensitive way.

A "design review panel" will be established to assess major development proposals on Crown land. The panel will provide aesthetic guidelines for developments on public land.

HEAVY MINERAL SANDS MINING

Although the industry has established a successful rehabilitation record, particularly over the past ten years, the fact remains that the mining of heavy mineral sands is a sensitive environmental planning issue.

Under the Coastal Policy:

- Heavy mineral sands mining in National Parks, Nature Reserves and littoral rainforests on the coast will be prohibited.

- In designated wetland areas the environmental assessment provisions will continue to apply.

- Heavy mineral sands mining will also be prohibited on beaches unless it can be clearly demonstrated that it is environmentally acceptable. An example of environmental acceptability would be where a dune area requires stabilisation or revegetation to protect the coastal environment.

- Strict conditions governing site rehabilitation and prevention of adverse environmental effects will apply in cases where heavy mineral sands mining is approved.

PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS

The Government believes that the protection of representative coastal species and ecosystems is important for aesthetic, environmental, scientific and economic reasons.

Under the Coastal Policy:

- Habitats and stands of mining in National Parks, Nature Reserves and littoral rainforests will be protected.

- In designated wetland areas the environmental assessment provisions will continue to apply.

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RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

The Coastal Policy provides for a co-ordinated approach to the special problems of coastal management. State Government agencies and local councils will be required to comply with the provisions of the policy. Local councils, as key decision makers, will have a special role in implementing the Coastal Policy under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. This work will occur in two ways:

- Local councils will be required to consider the provisions of the policy when making decisions on development applications.
- Councils will also take the policy into account where rezonings are proposed.

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Government, as the custodian of the State's natural heritage, has a mandate to ensure the effective management of the State's natural assets.

The Government began buying coastal land with unique scenic and environmental qualities in 1973. More than ten million people visit annually, and the majority of these are from other parts of New South Wales and other States.

Quality of Development

The Government will ensure that the height and concentration of development in the coastal area is sensitive and appropriate to the local environment.

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New South Wales Coastal Policy

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INTRODUCTION

THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT has a mandate to ensure responsible management of the 1,000 kilometre strip of land along the New South Wales coast.

The effective management of this land has been plagued by a history of haphazard development and the absence of a clear conservation strategy. This is not acceptable.

The Government is confronted with the reality that population pressures on the coastal area are increasing. The coastal area already supports a population of almost three million people and population growth in the far north and south coast regions alone is expected to be 66% and 43%, respectively, to the year 2016. The New South Wales coast is also experiencing growing popularity as a tourist destination. More than ten million people visit annually, and the majority of these are from other parts of New South Wales and other States.

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The primary aim of the Coastal Policy is to protect the coastline and beaches for the enjoyment of future generations and to ensure that coastal development is balanced, well planned and environmentally sensitive.

MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND

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- Controls on the use of off-road vehicles in National Parks will be strengthened.
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONTROL

When providing for urban, commercial, industrial or tourist development, the Government will ensure the nature and form of development activity is environmentally sensitive. Protection of prime agricultural land will be a high priority.

Location of Coastal Development

Urban development on the coast will be limited primarily to areas adjacent to existing cities and towns.

Major tourism development will generally be clustered around identified tourist growth centres to minimise intrusion on the coastline.

Under the Coastal Policy:

* Local environmental studies will be required for any development in the coastal area that requires re-zoning.
* Regional tourism strategies which identify areas with high tourism potential will have to be considered when preparing planning instruments.
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* Subject to the outcome of current consultations, planning guidelines for canal estate development proposals will be introduced.
* More stringent environmental assessment provisions will apply for marina developments.
* A Coastal Urban Planning Strategy will be developed to ensure that continuous urban development does not proliferate and that it proceeds in a more orderly, efficient and environmentally sensitive way.
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PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS

The Government believes that the protection of representative coastal species and ecosystems is important for aesthetic, environmental, scientific and economic reasons.

Under the Coastal Policy:

- State Environmental Planning Policies on Wetlands (14) and Littoral Rainforests (26) will be retained. Wetland boundaries are being reviewed to ensure that the most significant wetland areas fall within the provisions of SEPP14.
- Native flora and fauna species outside National Parks and Nature Reserves will be protected through conservation agreements.
- Management plans will be prepared for all major fisheries in New South Wales. These will provide for stock protection and habitat management.

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(Telephone (02) 391 2000).
The Coastal Committee of NSW is reviewing the State Government's coastal policy. The committee wants your suggestions and comments. This is your opportunity to get involved in the review by attending a community workshop.

LOCATIONS:
Kiama Community Centre
cnr Terralong & Collins Streets
Monday 29th March 1993

Narooma Surf Life Saving Club
Ballingalla Street
Tuesday 30th March 1993

Newcastle City Hall
2nd floor, King Street
Friday 2nd April 1993

Port Macquarie - Hastings Council Offices
cnr Burrawan & Lord Streets
Tuesday 6th April 1993

Ballina - Junior Surf Life Saving Club
Shelley Beach Road
Wednesday 7th April 1993

Sydney - State Library
Seminar Room 1, Level 11
Macquarie Street
Wednesday 21st April 1993

TIME: 9am - 4pm

If you would like to attend a workshop and present your views please attach a separate page giving the reasons why you should be selected to participate and send it by 19 March 1993 to:
Executive Officer
Coastal Committee of NSW
Department of Planning
Level 4 175 Liverpool Street
Sydney 2000

When workshop participants are selected it will be on the basis that they represent a broad range of views and interests.

For more information please contact Jan Murrell on telephone (02) 391 2033

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE COASTAL REVIEW

Name ..................................................
Address ...............................................
..................................................
..................................................
Telephone ...........................................
Organisation/Group ..............................
..................................................

I would like to attend a workshop at:
☐ Kiama  ☐ Ballina
☐ Narooma  ☐ Newcastle
☐ Port Macquarie  ☐ Sydney

I have attached a separate page with the reasons why I should be selected to participate in a workshop.