

DRAFT REVISED

COASTAL

POLICY FOR NSW

As proposed by the Coastal Committee
of New South Wales

BRUCE COATES

DRAFT REVISED
COASTAL
POLICY FOR NSW

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of New South Wales

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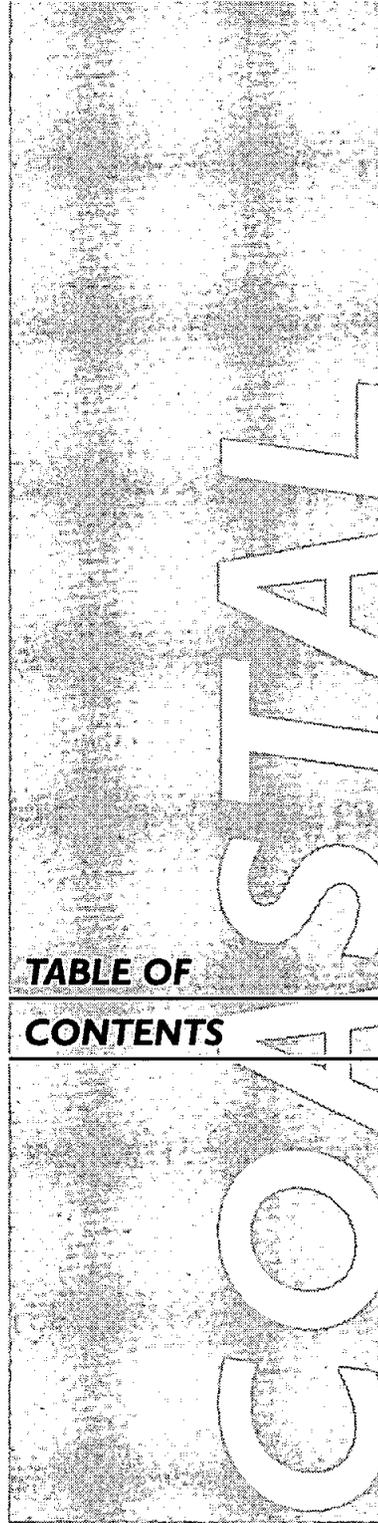
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FOREWORD

The Minister for Planning, the Hon Robert Webster MLC, commissioned the Coastal Committee of New South Wales to review the Government's Coastal Policy and submit a revised draft policy to him. A requirement of the review process was that it be undertaken in close consultation with the community.

The State's coastal area has been under increasing pressure in recent decades. The Coastal Committee sees *the challenge* as:

to provide for population and economic development without putting the natural, cultural and heritage values of the coastal environment at risk. This will require policies that effectively direct the management of the coastal environment for current and future generations.

The first stage in the consultation process involved community workshops held in six locations: Kiama, Narooma, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Ballina and Sydney. Some 250 people attended the workshops representing industry, peak organisations, community and conservation groups and local government.

The second stage of consultation was the distribution of a brochure *The NSW Coast - Have Your Say in its Future*. Over 120 submissions were received in response to this brochure. The comments and views expressed at the workshops and in the written submissions, together with consultations with relevant organisations and agencies, have provided a significant input to the review process.

Producing this draft document for public exhibition and comment is the next stage in the consultation process. Part 1 provides an overview of current issues and concerns and major achievements since the release of the Government's Coastal Policy in 1990. Part 2 proposes an effective framework for integrated planning, management and decision-making in the coastal area. The Coastal Committee is now seeking your comments before submitting the draft policy to the Minister and the Government for consideration.

I encourage you to participate in the future planning and management of the New South Wales coast by making a submission on this draft strategic plan and policy as proposed by the Coastal Committee of New South Wales.



Professor Bruce Thom
Chairman
Coastal Committee of New South Wales

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PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

In 1990, the Government released its policy for the New South Wales coast in response to perceived development pressures which were seen as threatening the coast's environmental integrity. Since the release of the 1990 Coastal Policy, considerable resources have been allocated and significant progress has been made in coastal planning and management in the State. In addition, there have been changes in state government and local government policies and programs which have led to the need to review and revise the 1990 Coastal Policy.

There have also been changes in the community's expectations and perceptions of government at all levels and the role it should play in protecting the fragile coastal zone. There is increasing community concern about the pace and location of urban development and the rate of population growth in the coastal zone. At the same time, there is a desire to attract employment-generating activities for those living in the coastal zone.

As a result, the Minister for Planning, the Hon Robert Webster MLC, requested the Coastal Committee of NSW to review the 1990 Coastal Policy. The Minister asked that this review take place through an extensive community consultation process and that a draft revised Coastal Policy be submitted to him for consideration by the Government.

In undertaking this review, the Coastal Committee was conscious that while the 1990 Coastal Policy laid the foundations for many of the coastal zone management initiatives being undertaken today, it did have its limitations. To many, the 1990 Coastal Policy was seen as a compendium of state government programs which was not comprehensive; nor did the 1990 Coastal Policy provide a rationale for its philosophy. For some the policy did not go far enough - it was considered too general. For others, parts of the policy were seen as being too restrictive.

Despite these limitations, many of the existing policies and programs are as applicable today as they were in 1990. As such, many of them have been carried forward or incorporated into the Coastal Committee's proposed revised draft Coastal Policy. Appendix B provides a reference to the strategic actions in the 1990 Coastal Policy that have been carried forward, achieved or revised.

The proposed revised draft Coastal Policy, as outlined in Part 2, comprises a draft policy statement and draft strategic plan. It is intended to provide a comprehensive framework and context for decision making at the state government level. It is also intended to give greater guidance not only to government agencies, but also to local councils and the community to enable them to participate, in partnership with the State, in the planning and management of the coast.

To achieve an integrated approach, it identifies specific goals and objectives for coastal planning and management and identifies the roles and responsibilities across governments. The proposed revised policy statement and strategic plan would allow for flexibility and enables government agencies, local councils and the community to develop specific work programs consistent with its goals, principles and strategic actions.

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Once endorsed by the Government, it is hoped that the revised policy, because it has been developed in consultation with the community, will facilitate effective coastal planning and management in NSW.

Fundamental to this review is the universal call for *integrated planning and management of the coast* among all levels of government and with the community. This review recognises the work of the NSW Standing Committee's Coastal Zone Inquiry and other numerous reports and the Coastal Zone Inquiry undertaken by the Commonwealth's Resource Assessment Commission (RAC).

THE REVIEW PROCESS

This review of the 1990 Coastal Policy involved a process of public consultation,

interviews with interested parties and a review of literature and previous coastal-related inquiry reports.

The first stage of the public consultation phase involved six regional workshops. These were held in Kiama, Narooma, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Ballina and Sydney. Following these workshops, a report was produced summarising the issues that arose. An executive summary appears at Appendix C.

The second stage in the public consultation phase involved the production of a brochure that was distributed widely to inform the community and interest groups of the review of the 1990 Coastal Policy with a call for written submissions. Over 120 submissions were received during this stage.

In addition to the public consultation process, every agency on the Coastal Committee was consulted and each provided detailed information on initiatives taken to date on coastal zone management. These agencies also provided policy initiatives to be included in this revised policy. Peak associations or groups not represented at the workshops were also consulted.

The third stage in the public consultation phase is the exhibition of this document for public comment. The Coastal Committee is specifically seeking comments on Part 2.

STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

This document is in two parts:

Part 1 - 'The Review of the 1990 Coastal Policy', highlights the background to this review and the significance of the coast. It also highlights the achievements made in coastal planning and management over the last three years.

Part 1 also details the major issues arising from the public consultation and review phases. These issues are grouped into three broad categories:

- the conservation and preservation of the coastal environment
- the use and management of coastal resources
- management and implementation.

Each section delineates the specific issues arising in the consultation phase and discusses those issues. Where relevant, details of progress made in the coastal planning and management of NSW have also been included.

In effect, Part 1 is an overview of the current issues, concerns and achievements related to the State's coastal zone planning and management. It sets the scene for Part 2 - 'The Draft Revised Coastal Policy for New South Wales'.

Part 2 consists of a policy statement and strategic plan. The statement begins with the challenge and vision discussed in Part 1. The draft strategic plan defines nine goals which are the desired long-term outcomes for the revised policy.

Under each of the goals there is a set of principles. They are statements which guide decision making and clarify the basic philosophy of the goals.

Flowing on from the goals and principles are objectives. These objectives are operational targets, that when met, ensure that the goal is achieved.

Under each objective are strategic actions. These provide the context for decision making and resource allocation by both state government agencies and local councils. Because the revised policy applies to the entire NSW coastline, many of the

strategic actions are general in nature. They do, however, provide for state government agencies and local councils to develop specific work programs to give effect to them and the objectives of the revised policy.

FUTURE REVIEWS

The Coastal Committee proposes that the revised Coastal Policy has a life span of five years, at which time it would be reviewed. The Coastal Committee further recommends that implementation of the policy's strategic actions be reviewed every two years and a report prepared on the effectiveness of agencies' programs in achieving the goals and objectives of the revised Coastal Policy..

Components of the revised draft coastal policy



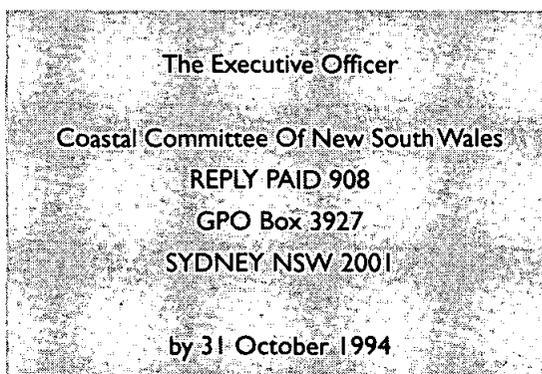
YOUR VIEWS COUNT

To enable the effective and efficient planning and management of the NSW coast it is essential that the revised Coastal Policy, when finalised, reflects community views. **The Coastal Committee is seeking**

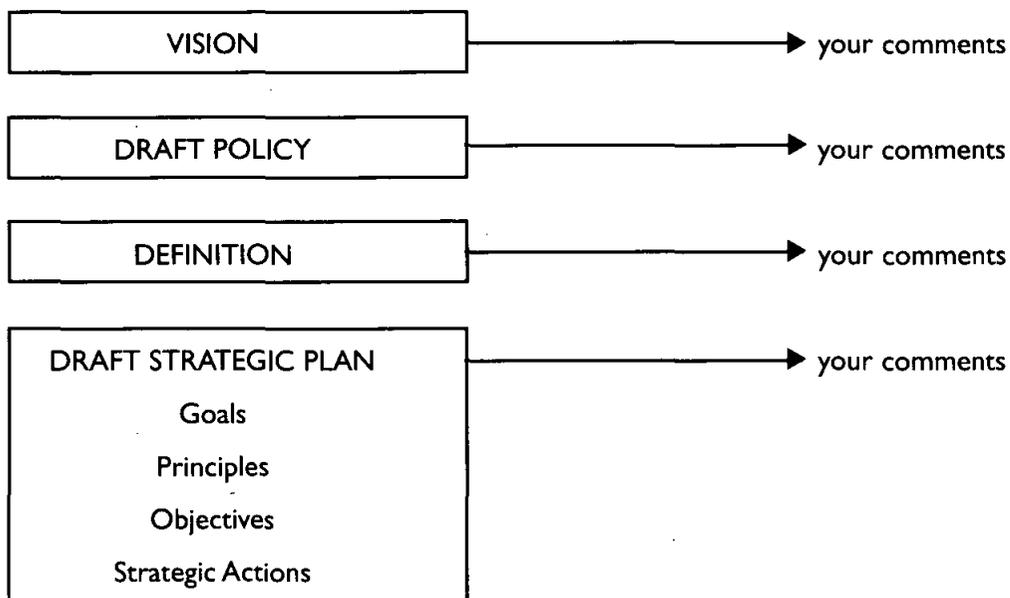
your views now on the proposed draft policy statement and strategic plan as outlined in Part 2. Importantly:

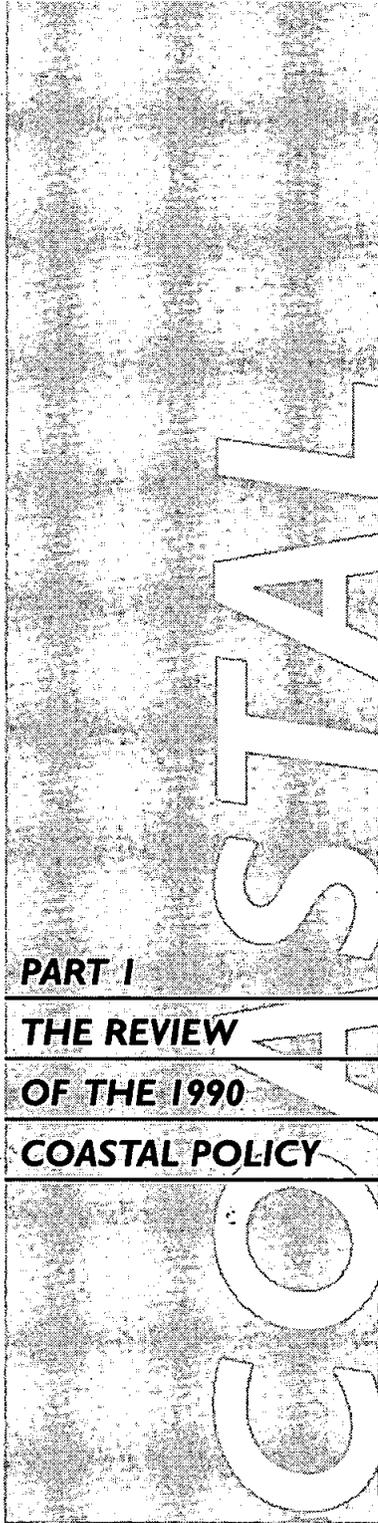
- Does it provide an adequate focus for coastal zone planning and management?
- Does the document provide a useful framework for specific programs to be developed to suit local conditions?
- Do you have suggestions for initiatives that should be included?
- Which definition of the coastal zone is the most appropriate for the revised draft Coastal Policy?
- Should the coastal metropolitan areas of Sydney and the local government areas of Newcastle and Wollongong be covered by the revised Coastal Policy?
- What strategic actions should be binding and enforceable? What actions should be flexible to reflect local conditions?

Your views are sought on the individual elements of the draft policy and strategic plan. All comments should be sent to:



For further information please contact
 Susan Harrison: (02) 391 2035 or
 Naomi Stephens: (02) 391 2117





PART I

THE REVIEW

OF THE 1990

COASTAL POLICY

THE 1990 COASTAL POLICY

In the late 1980s, there was a perception that development along the NSW coast was growing and that it was uncontrolled. As a result, the *New South Wales Coast - Government Policy* was released in September 1990 to provide a framework for making decisions about the planning and management of the State's coastline. The 1990 Coastal Policy represented a whole of government initiative and was a statement of direction for government departments and authorities that had a role in coastal zone management and planning.

The 1990 Coastal Policy's aim was to reassure the community that development activity was not uncontrolled and that there were policies and programs in place to ensure the protection of the coastal environment and its resources. The primary focus of the 1990 Coastal Policy was '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'.

The 1990 Coastal Policy represented the Government's commitment to the:

- protection of environmentally sensitive areas
- guaranteed public access to foreshore areas
- facilitation of a scale of development that was sensitive to environmental and planning constraints
- sensitive use of renewable resources to maintain the integrity of the resource base and provide for its continued use by future generations
- protection of the diversity of ecosystems so that species could flourish and maintain their productivity
- control and management of adverse environmental impacts.

The coastal zone as defined in the 1990 Coastal Policy was:

the 1 kilometre landward strip from the low water mark and extended 3 nautical miles out to sea.

The 1990 policy excluded the Sydney metropolitan area, the City of Newcastle and the City of Wollongong, because it was recognised that these cities would be subject to special regional planning exercises which would take account of their substantially developed status and particularly intense land use.

The 1990 Coastal Policy was implemented through a s.117 Direction issued under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979* (NSW) and it was gazetted as a s.90 1(s) head of consideration under the Act. This required councils to take the provisions of the 1990 Coastal Policy into account when preparing local environmental plans (LEPs) and determining development applications.

State government agencies were also required to ensure that any new policies and programs affecting the coastal zone were consistent with the intent of the policy. The Coastal Policy has also been referred to in other instances, such as Commissions of Inquiry and the Land and Environment Court.

The principal elements of the 1990 Coastal Policy are:

- continuing the existing state program to bring unique coastal land into public ownership and ensure public access to beaches
- urban coastal development to be limited primarily to areas adjacent to existing towns and cities
- major tourist developments to be centred on identified tourist growth centres to minimise intrusion on the coastline
- the height and concentration of developments to be sensitive and appropriate to the local environment
- representative coastal species and ecosystems to be protected through continuing wetland and littoral rainforest policies
- the coastline management and estuary management programs to provide technical and financial

assistance for the preparation and implementation of balanced plans of management in partnership with local councils

- management plans to be prepared for all major fisheries in the State to provide for stock protection
- a design review panel was established to assess major developments on Crown land
- the development of planning guidelines for canal estates.

COASTAL COMMITTEE

In 1979 the Coastal Protection Act was introduced to establish the Coastal Council as an expert advisory body to the then Minister for Planning and Environment and to enable the Minister for Public Works to control, when necessary, development in hazardous areas on the coast. It served as a body which fostered research and coastal and wetlands investigations.

The council also administered the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme (CLPS). The Coastal Council served two terms from 1979-1985. In late 1985, when the council's term expired, it was not re-appointed as the then Government considered it was ineffective in providing coordinated advice to government and servicing the needs of local government.

As an initial step in reconstituting the Coastal Council, the Government established an advisory committee under s.22 of the EP&A Act. The committee, termed the Coastal Committee of NSW, aimed to overcome the fragmentation of responsibility and ad hoc decision making that hampered coastal management in the

past. It has a role in coordinating the activities of state government agencies and local councils and improving the level of guidance to local councils, the community and other bodies concerning coastal issues. It is also a forum for exchanging information.

The committee advises the Director for Planning and Minister for Planning. Importantly, the committee is charged with the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the 1990 Coastal Policy, and for recommending policy changes to the Minister for Planning.

The committee's membership was broadened and now includes representatives from the departments of Conservation and Land Management, Local Government and Co-operatives, Mineral Resources, Planning and Public Works, the Environment Protection Authority, NSW Fisheries, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the NSW Tourism Commission, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the Local Government and Shires Associations (three members), the Royal Australian Planning Institute and a member of State Parliament representing coastal electorates. Professor Bruce Thom, the Vice Chancellor of the University of New England, chairs the committee.

RECENT NSW ACHIEVEMENTS

In the three years since the 1990 Coastal Policy was released, significant resources have been allocated to coastal zone protection, planning and management. As a result, substantial progress has been made not only in the conservation, protection and management of the coastal zone, but also in the sustainable development and use of coastal resources. Details of the progress

made in implementing the strategic actions appearing in the 1990 Coastal Policy are contained in Appendix B.

Listed below are some recent achievements:

- over 3000 ha of land has been dedicated or reserved under the *National Parks & Wildlife (NP&W) Act 1974* since 1990. Plus, approximately \$10 million has been spent since 1990 on land acquisition for care and management by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NP&WS).
- a further 1000 ha of land for scenic protection and public access has been purchased under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme at a cost of \$14 million since 1990
- approximately 85 000 ha of state waters have now been protected as the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve, administered by the NSW Fisheries. A review of recreational angling and intertidal harvesting has been completed.
- a new local government act was introduced in 1993. It has a strong emphasis on environmental planning and reporting functions for councils.
- the NSW planning system has been reviewed to ensure the system functions efficiently and effectively
- over 80 community groups are now active in coastal rehabilitation and protection of Crown land
- manuals for coastline management and estuary management, addressing erosion, hazards, environmental protection and environmental rehabilitation issues, have been released and over 150 related management studies and projects have been completed

- loans and grants of over \$2 million have been made to the 53 Crown Reserve Trusts from the Public Reserves Management Fund

- draft coastal urban planning strategies have been prepared for the North Coast, Hunter and Illawarra regions. They are aimed at directing urban development to suitable areas to ensure the environment is protected and that the provision of infrastructure and services is coordinated.

- the 1988 Metropolitan Strategy for the Sydney Region is being reviewed, in part in response to the increasing environmental pressures on the natural ecosystems of the region. A draft strategy for the Greater Metropolitan Region, extending from Port Stephens to Kiama, has been prepared. This draft strategy was exhibited for four months and public comments are now being assessed. The four key strategic directions presented are: a more compact city, a better environment, a more equitable and efficient city and effective implementation. These directions are related to four goals of equity, efficiency, environmental quality and livability.

- the heritage system is being reviewed and the State Heritage Inventory Program further developed. In addition, an archaeology program has been developed to protect and promote awareness of shipwrecks.

- numerous management plans for reserves have been prepared

- to ensure activities are undertaken in an environmentally sensitive manner, numerous guidelines have been prepared addressing issues such as tourism, development along the NSW coast, canal estates, North and South Coast urban

design, sand and gravel extraction and heavy minerals extraction from beach and incipient dunes.

- regional tourism development strategies have been completed for all coastal regions of NSW with an investment of more than \$300 000. The regional strategies, together with the 14 local tourism plans, provide guidelines for identifying major tourism development areas within each region.

- since the deepwater outfalls have been operating in Sydney and the Hunter regions, inshore water quality has improved dramatically and there has been a one hundred fold reduction in faecal bacterial densities. Environmental monitoring programs are carried out by the EPA. The Government has also established *Beachwatch* to report on beach and water quality conditions.

OTHER COASTAL INQUIRIES AND REVIEWS

Since the 1990 Coastal Policy was released, there have been a number of inquiries and reviews, including the following reports, which have relevance to the NSW coast:

- *Standing Committee on State Development - Vol 1*
- *Standing Committee on State Development - Vol 2*
- *Review of the NSW Planning System*
- *The Injured Coastline*
- the Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Group reports and national strategy
- the Resource Assessment Commission (RAC) coastal zone inquiry reports and papers

- a draft policy for Commonwealth responsibilities in the coastal zone.

While each inquiry and report has its own specific terms of reference, there are issues of commonality in their recommendations. See the bibliography for the full reference of related reports.

NSW Standing Committee on State Development Inquiry

The most significant inquiry for this review was the State's Legislative Council Standing Committee on Coastal Development Inquiry, held during 1991 and 1992. The inquiry provided an important consideration to shaping the Government's ongoing efforts to improve coastal management and planning. The Government tabled its response to Volume 1: *Coastal Planning and Management in New South Wales: A Framework for the Future* in April 1992 and its response to Volume 2: *Coastal Planning and Management in New South Wales: The Process for the Future* in the Legislative Council in July 1993. These responses indicate which recommendations have been implemented.

Resource Assessment Commission - Coastal Zone Inquiry

The RAC Inquiry began in 1992 with the production of a background paper. In December 1992, RAC produced its draft report and subsequently a number of information papers and discussion papers. The draft report advocated the adoption of the concept of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) as the goal for management of Australia's coastal zone resources. It concluded that a system based on integrated management of resources would be best suited to achieving this goal.

In September 1993, the RAC released its draft *Conclusions and Recommendations of the Coastal Zone Inquiry* report. An assessment of public comments was undertaken prior to the finalisation of this report. *The Final Report of the Coastal Zone Inquiry*, released November 1993, recommends a National Coastal Action Program, which contains four elements: a set of nationally agreed coastal zone management objectives; arrangements for implementing and managing the program; greater community and industry involvement; and innovative management mechanisms.

RELEVANT NATIONAL AGREEMENTS

There are four relevant intergovernmental agreements applicable to coastal zone management. They are:

- the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment - February 1992
- the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development - December 1992
- the National Greenhouse Response Strategy - December 1992
- the Offshore Constitutional Settlement.

A brief summary of these agreements follows.

Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment

The agreement aims to provide the basis for a new cooperative approach to the management of environmental issues in Australia. In particular, it is a mechanism

for providing:

- community participation
- a cooperative national approach to the environment
- better definition of the roles of respective governments with respect to the environment
- a reduction in intergovernmental environmental disputes
- more certain government and business decision making
- better environment protection.

The agreement delineates the responsibilities and interests of each of the three spheres of government. It recognises that the states and territories have responsibility for the majority of the environmental issues within their areas. However, it does make provision for the Commonwealth Government to become involved in those issues where it has demonstrated responsibilities and interests.

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National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development

Australia's development of the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) has its origins in the release of the World Conservation Strategy in 1980. In 1990, nine sectoral ESD working groups were established involving government, industry, environmental, union, welfare and consumer groups to examine sustainability issues in key industry sectors. The reports of the ESD working groups provided the foundation for the ESD strategy which was adopted by the Council of Australian Governments in December 1992.

The goal of the ESD strategy is:

Development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

The ESD strategy has three core objectives:

- to enhance individual and community well-being by following a path of economic development that safeguards the welfare of future generations
- to provide for equity within and between generations
- to protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems.

The revised policy, which appears in Part 2, is based on ESD principles and is structured into goals, principles, objectives and strategic actions. In addition, each objective is linked back to one of the three ESD core objectives.

National Greenhouse Response Strategy

The need for a nationally coordinated approach to dealing with Greenhouse issues was recognised by the Commonwealth Government, State Governments, territories and local government in October 1990 when they agreed to jointly develop the National Greenhouse Response Strategy. The strategy forms an important component of the national commitment to ecologically sustainable development.

The goal of the National Greenhouse Response Strategy is:

To contribute towards effective global action to limit greenhouse gas emissions and enhance greenhouse gas sinks; to improve knowledge and understanding of the enhanced greenhouse effect; and to prepare for potential impacts of climate change in Australia.

Offshore Constitutional Settlement

The Premiers' Conference of 26 June 1979 resulted in the completion of an agreement between the states and the Commonwealth for the settlement of complex constitutional issues including the legislative powers of the states in relation to coastal waters, and title to the seabed beneath the territorial sea. From this Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) stemmed cooperative arrangements concerning jurisdiction over petroleum, minerals, fisheries and Marine Parks and reserves.

Recently, for example, a suite of arrangements have been made between the Commonwealth and NSW, under the *Commonwealth Fisheries Management Act 1991*. Each arrangement specifies jurisdiction in terms of area and method for either a single or group of species.

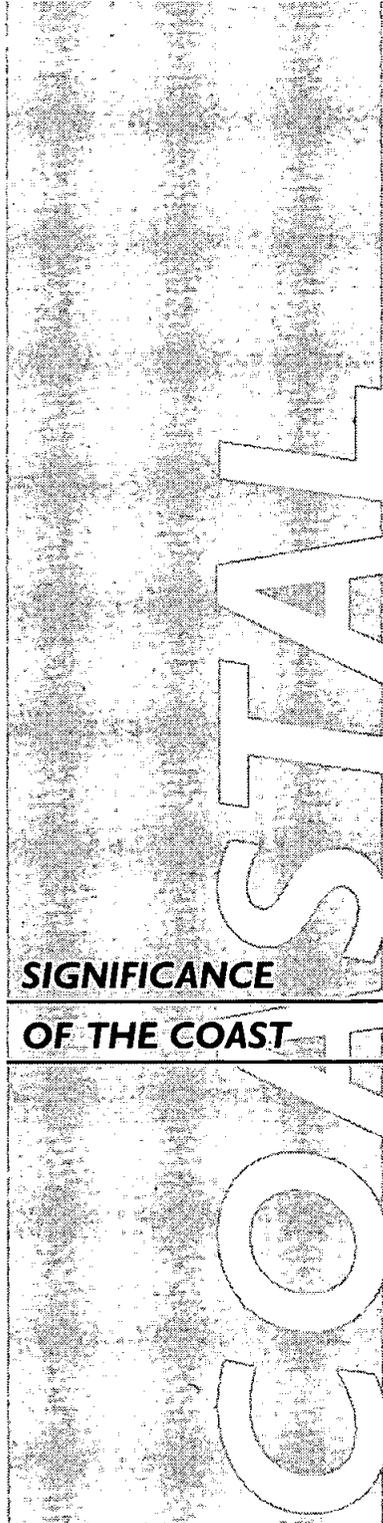
Presently, NSW has jurisdiction over all:

- fishing from coastal baselines out to three nautical miles
- trap and line fishing from coastal baselines out to the 4000-m depth contour with the exception of tuna-like species and some squid fishing
- trawling north of Barrenjoey Headland from coastal baselines out to the 4000 m depth contour.

These arrangements are currently being reviewed and will be regularly refined to reflect the management needs of our fisheries resource.

International agreements

The Commonwealth Government is a signatory to many international treaties incorporating ESD principles and where these are incorporated in legislation or agreements the states and territories are bound by these. These agreements have relevance for the planning and management of the NSW coastline. A list of these international agreements appears at Appendix E.



ENVIRONMENT

Natural

The NSW coastal zone, which for the purposes of this section refers to the coastal region, is characterised by a wide range of physical features, such as coastal plains, beaches and dunes, cliffs, estuaries and other enclosed water bodies, islands, mudflats, wetlands, hills and mountains. Ten percent of the coastline is developed, 14% is in private ownership, 32% is classified as National Park, Nature Reserve, Historic Site, State Recreation Area or Aboriginal area, while another third is Crown land. There are 130 estuaries, of which 72 are permanently open and 58 intermittently open, and 721 ocean beaches.

The biological features of the coastal zone exhibit enormous variety and complexity, with a range of flora and fauna living and breeding in terrestrial and aquatic environments. The biological environment is also characterised by complex interactions between species and the physical environment, which produce recognisable ecosystems.

However, coastal fauna comprises species that are found in or occupy terrestrial and marine environments, and species that migrate with and between the terrestrial and marine environments, such as migratory fish and birds. Many of these ecosystems are sensitive and fragile, requiring conservation and protection. Above all, they are a finite resource. Ecosystems are subject to constant change through natural processes. Human actions, both deliberate and unintended, have accelerated these changes.

Cultural

The coastal zone also contains large and varied terrestrial and submerged heritage resources of natural, historic and Aboriginal value. The identification and appropriate conservation of heritage resources in intertidal and terrestrial sites is an essential factor in the management of the coastal zone.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

These coastal resources and environments are valued in a variety of ways. Some are primarily of economic value, others are of aesthetic, cultural, social or ecological value. Because of the rich diversity of natural resources and environments found in the coastal zone, it has become the focus for much of our economic, social and cultural activities, yet it remains a relatively fragile environment. The majority of the population of NSW, and consequently a significant proportion of the State's economic activity, is located in the coastal zone, resulting in a conflict of values and pressure on the environment.

Over 80% of the State's population lives in the local government areas along the coast. While many human activities rely on the opportunities offered by the coastal environment, they may also have significant impact on the coast and its resources. In the past, management of coastal lands and waters has resulted in some development that has had an adverse affect on the environment.

The State's population growth is being focused on the coast and as our population grows, so too does the need for housing, shops, factories, schools, transport, holiday facilities, recreational and public safety facilities. Between 1981 and 1991, the population of NSW grew from 4.7 million to 5.9 million, a 25% increase. In the same period, the population living in the non-metropolitan coastal local government areas grew from 1 million to 1.47 million, an increase of 45%.

Between 1981 and 1991, a total of 107 560 dwelling units were constructed in coastal local government areas, accounting for more than 41% of total annual dwelling unit construction in NSW in that period. The use

and development of coastal zone resources for building purposes is closely linked to population growth. The rapid increase in the number of dwelling units located in the coastal zone accompanied the rapid growth of population in non-metropolitan areas of the coastal zone during this period.

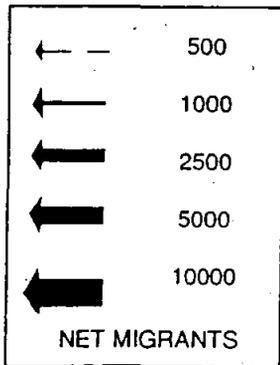
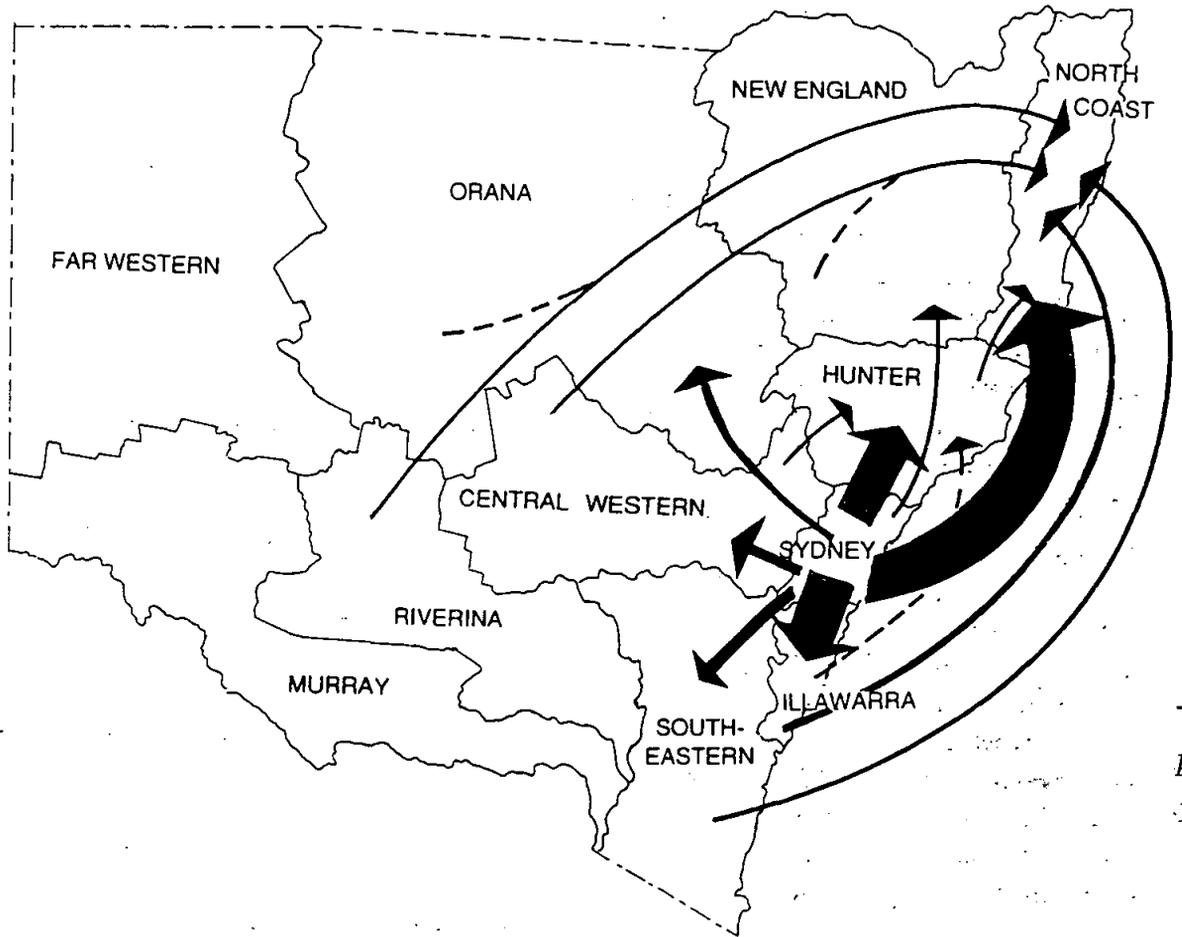
The coastal area outside the Sydney metropolitan area is continuing to attract a significant number of retired people. The proportion of people aged 65 and over in the Hunter, Illawarra, North Coast and South Eastern Regions increased from 10.7% to 13.6% in the period 1981 to 1991. Similarly, the unemployment rate for the above regions increased from 7.3% to 13.6% over the same period. The population growth rate in these areas, combined with relatively large percentages in the over 65 age group or in the unemployed category, places great demands on the services in these areas where economic growth has been depressed.

Of the top ten regions in Australia for population growth and building, four are in NSW: Gosford-Wyong, Hunter, Illawarra and the Richmond-Tweed. These areas are rapidly emerging as extensive urbanised regions. Many people who move to the coastal zone expect services to be maintained. This requires levels of facilities and amenities similar to those experienced in metropolitan areas. It places heavy demands on infrastructure that must be addressed, but in a way that minimises its effect on the coast's natural and cultural resources. Appropriate policies must be put in place to manage the future expected growth in population along the coastline.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The tourism industry is a significant contributor to the Australian and state economies and the major focus for this

Net Intrastate Migration 1986-91



Source: A.B.S. Unpublished Data

industry is the coastal zone of NSW. The \$8 billion per annum expenditure by domestic and international tourists contributed 5.5% to gross domestic product and provided employment for 150 000 people in 1991/92 for the State.

Over 80% of tourism within NSW (including Sydney) is concentrated in the coastal regions. In 1991/92 over 64 million visitor nights were spent in NSW. Of these, over 28 million were spent in the coastal regions outside of Sydney.

Although buildings associated with tourism are often thought to be a major component of coastal zone development, only 30% of all such developments occurred in the non-metropolitan coastal zone in the last two decades. The majority of the tourism developments in the NSW coastal zone have occurred in or adjacent to major urban areas.

Because of its inherent beauty, the coastal zone of NSW supports a wide range of terrestrial and marine-based recreational activities, some passive, such as picnicking, bushwalking and sightseeing, and others active such as fishing, swimming, surfing, scuba diving, boating and sailing.

FISHERIES

The coastal zone provides almost the entire commercial fisheries resource for the State and a very large proportion of the recreational fisheries.

Fish are a renewable resource and often inhabit vast stretches of ocean, but there are limits to the numbers that can be harvested. Moreover, many important fish habitats are being degraded or reduced in area.

Commercial fishing is carried out in some estuaries and along the whole open

coastline. The total state commercial fisheries catch is about 20 000 tonnes each year, with a value of approximately \$150 million. This figure is for unprocessed product alone and does not take into account boats, equipment etc. There are over 2000 licensed commercial fishers in the State.

Recreational fishing is an extremely popular pastime, with surveys showing that approximately one third of the population fish at least once a year. In NSW about \$400 million is annually spent by anglers on such items as fishing tackle, bait, accommodation and transport.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

NSW ports handle over 4,000 trading vessels every year and carry over 110 million revenue tonnes of cargo. The four major NSW ports of Sydney, Botany Bay, Newcastle and Port Kembla are all located within a 250 km stretch of the coastal plain in which is found the bulk of the State's industrial infrastructure and a population of 5.6 million.

For many years Sydney Harbour was the centre for shipping activity in the State. Of all the NSW ports, it still has the most varied trade ranging from passenger liners, general cargo and containers to a variety of dry and liquid bulk commodities. Sydney Harbour offers excellent shelter for shipping and is a deep water harbour that caters for a mix of commercial and recreational vessel activity.

Botany Bay, originally considered too shallow for shipping operations on a large scale, has been dredged and a modern port constructed and developed to become one of

Australia's most important container ports. It is also the State's main oil and petrochemical port.

Newcastle and Port Kembla are predominantly bulk cargo ports. They export large quantities of coal as well as importing raw materials for local metal industries (mainly iron ore) and exporting their products. Both ports are also important to the agricultural trade exporting wool, cotton, grain and livestock.

The port of Eden, on the NSW far south coast, principally caters for the export of woodchips and the import of petroleum products. Eden is also one of the major fishing ports on the south coast.

The port of Yamba, situated on the Clarence River 310 nautical miles north of Sydney, provides a general cargo port for smaller cargo vessels. The port is used for the export of timber and livestock and the import of raw sugar from Queensland for refining at the local sugar refinery. Boat harbours at Iluka and Yamba provide facilities for the largest fishing fleet on the NSW north coast.

A further 30 small ports along the NSW coast form a network of safe havens for boats. These ports provide facilities for the commercial fishing industry, charter boats and recreational craft. Boat ramps provide access to these ports and associated waterways for smaller craft.

THE CHALLENGE

The changes that have occurred in the coastal zone this century have produced both positive and negative impacts. Increased economic activity has led to the growth of new and important industries and the decentralisation of commercial and

industrial activities. The most prominent negative effects that have occurred are environmental degradation, natural habitat destruction and pollution.

The desire to use the coastal zone for living, working, holidaying and recreation will continue. However, while human activity and use has to be catered for, so does the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of our natural resources.

The Challenge is:

to provide for population growth and economic development without putting the natural, cultural and heritage values of the coastal environment at risk. This will require policies that effectively direct the management of the coastal environment for current and future generations.



MAJOR ISSUES

ARISING FROM

THE

CONSULTATION

AND REVIEW

PROCESS

This section deals with the major issues facing coastal zone planning and management in NSW today. Many of the issues were raised during the consultation process and, where applicable, these have been highlighted. Following is a discussion of those issues, to put in context with what is occurring in NSW or what has been raised in other relevant reviews. This section is divided into five main areas:

- Vision for the coast
- Definition of the coastal zone
- Conservation, protection and rehabilitation of coastal resources
- Management and use of coastal resources
- Management and implementation.

VISION FOR THE COAST

Community issues

Because of continuing strong population growth and economic development, the conservation and enhancement of the environment was proposed as a priority for the revised policy at each of the NSW workshops and throughout many submissions. It was suggested that development should not occur in areas which would damage, or potentially damage, the environment - visually, biologically or physically. It was suggested that the revised policy should be comprehensive in order to protect the ecological systems that influence the coast. There was also wide support for the encouragement of economic growth and the provision of social and recreational facilities in the coastal zone. In essence, there was general support for the vision which is based on ESD principles.

The Vision

A coastal environment which is conserved and enhanced for its natural and cultural values while also providing for the economic, social and spiritual well-being of the community.

The public consultation phase also highlighted a heavy emphasis on the coordination of management to achieve the desired vision for the coast. It was felt that the revised policy should be strategic as well as providing a means of generating and managing a comprehensive database on the coast. It should also provide for effective involvement of communities in policy development,

coastal planning and coastal management. This was also a common theme running through many of the submissions received. These issues are discussed later in the document.

Discussion

These issues, highlighted through the consultation process, reaffirm the vision proposed by the Coastal Committee. Effectively, the vision proposed by the Coastal Committee has been endorsed by the community. The issues raised above are also consistent with many of the issues that have arisen in other coastal inquiries, particularly the NSW Upper House Standing Committee Inquiry and the RAC's Coastal Zone Inquiry.

DEFINITION OF THE COASTAL ZONE

page
22 The definition of the coastal zone has been a matter of debate and finding an acceptable and workable definition is not an easy task. There is however, consensus that the term *coastal* relates to the interface between the land and tidal waters. Disagreement usually centres on how far inland the coastal zone should extend.

On the other hand, it also became apparent that coastal catchments were covered by the State's catchment management program. As such, it was considered more appropriate for the revised policy to focus on the interface between the ocean and the land.

Community issues

Throughout the review, there was a strong call for coastal zone management to be based upon an ecosystems approach. It was suggested that the boundaries of the coastal zone should extend as far inland and as far

seaward as necessary to achieve the objectives of the management issue.

There was general concern that Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong were excluded from the 1990 Coastal Policy. It was appreciated that while these metropolitan areas had unique issues confronting them, the general view was that the revised coastal policy should apply to the entire NSW coastline. Therefore, an option in this review is whether or not to include the coastal metropolitan areas of Sydney and the local government areas of Newcastle and Wollongong. Your views are sought on this option.

Discussion

To a large extent, the definition of the coastal zone depends upon the purpose for which the definition is intended. From both management and scientific viewpoints, the extent of the coastal zone will vary according to the nature of the management issue.

A major issue that needs resolution is the precise boundaries of the area to which a coastal policy applies. One approach could be a line on a map as was the case with the 1990 Coastal Policy. Another approach could be a non-prescriptive definition which allows for flexibility in defining areas with reference to the specific issues being considered. Despite the extensive consultation process, this matter is still unresolved and specific comments are sought during the public exhibition phase.

As there was no consensus for an appropriate definition of the coastal zone arising from the consultation process, the Coastal Committee has put forward five options for consideration. All proposed options include the coastal waters and seabed offshore from the coast (including

islands) to the State's three nautical mile limit. Coastal lakes and lagoons are those which have at least an ephemeral linkage to the ocean.

The options are the areas described as:

- option 1 - one km landward from the low water mark (1990 Coastal Policy definition)
- option 2 - one km landward from the open coast high water mark and coastal lakes and lagoons
- option 3 - one km landward from the open coast high water mark; all tidal waters, coastal lakes, lagoons and islands and the lands adjoining them for a distance of 40 m
- option 4 - five km landward from the high water mark on the open coast and in estuaries (to the tidal limits) including coastal lakes and lagoons
- option 5 - an issues based definition where the boundaries of the coastal zone extend as far inland and as far seaward as necessary to achieve the policy's objectives, with a focus on the land sea interface.

The first three options retain the *one km landward of the coast* of the present definition. The second option adds coastal lakes and lagoons. These emerged as areas of considerable public concern which are included in the community perception of the *coast*. The third option also includes a 40 m strip around tidal waters to reflect the coverage of the provision of the Rivers and Foreshore Improvement Act.

The first four options may require mapping. The line on the maps would need to be taken to the nearest cadastral boundary and/or easily recognisable physical boundary in consultation with local councils.

The fifth option is a flexible management approach and, as such, is not capable of being mapped. This approach does not allow immediate identification of the areas included in the coastal zone.

In addition, your views are sought on whether the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong should be covered by the revised Coastal Policy.

CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION OF COASTAL RESOURCES

As stated earlier, a major priority to arise out of most inquiries, the workshops and the submissions was the 'conservation and protection of our coastal resources'. This section addresses this issue under the areas of:

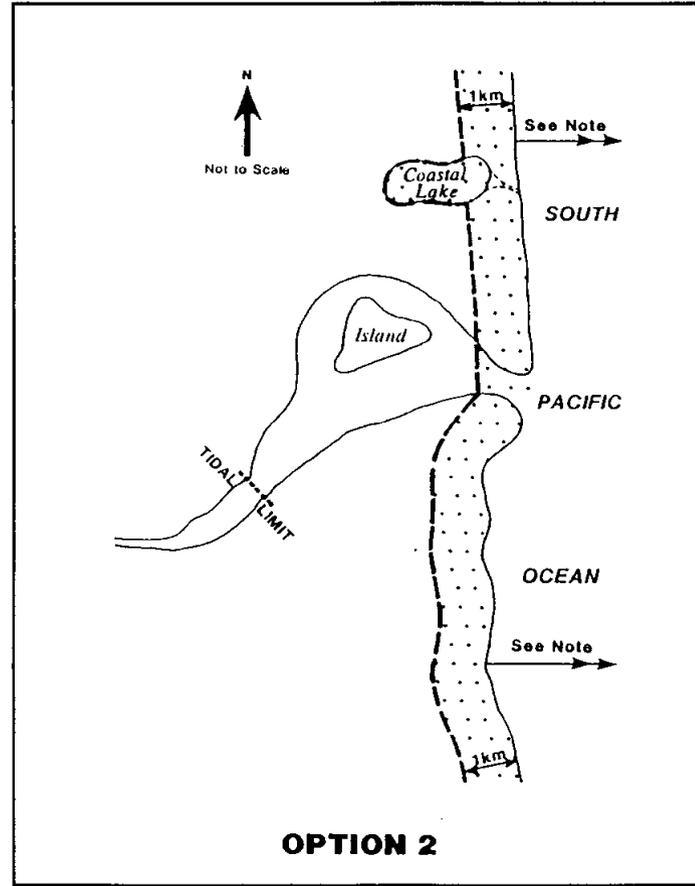
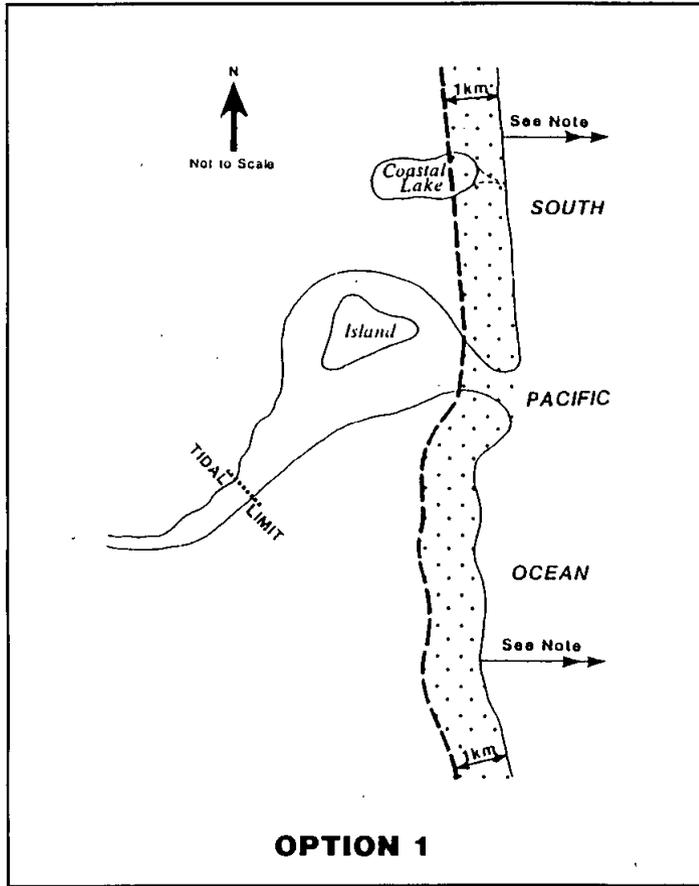
- Biological diversity
- Water quality
- Acquisitions, reservations and dedication
- Rehabilitation
- Total catchment management
- Coastal and estuary management programs
- Climate change.

The specific issues relating to these areas which were raised during the consultation process are highlighted. A discussion of related issues is also included where relevant.

Biological diversity

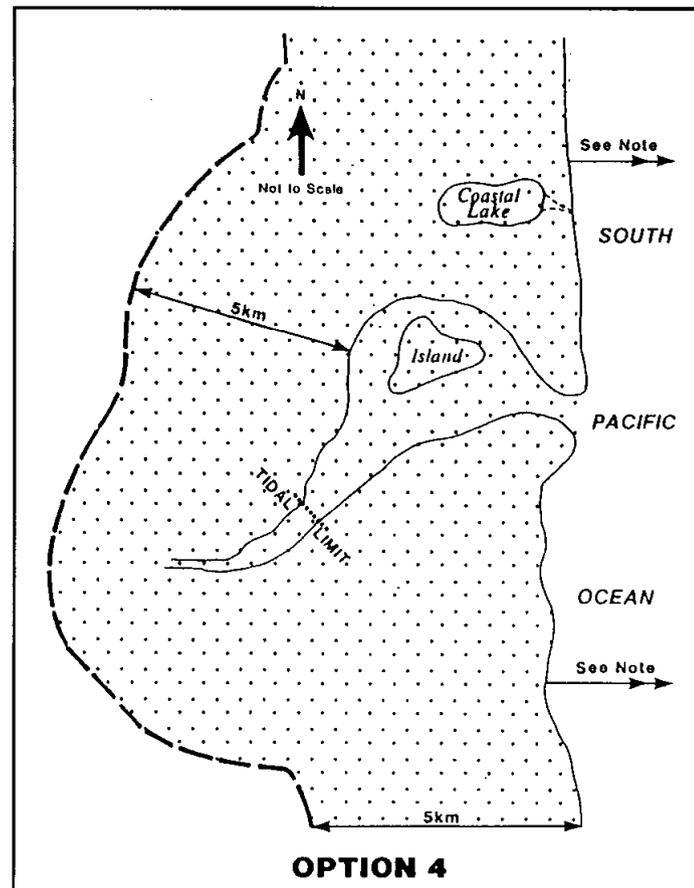
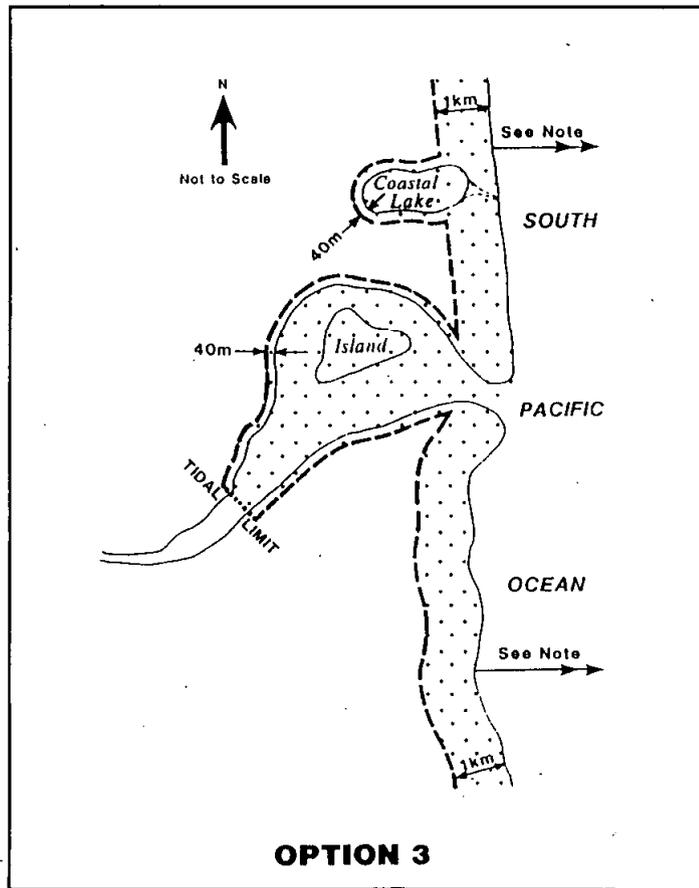
The biological features of the coastal zone exhibit enormous variety and complexity, with a range of flora and fauna living and

Coastal zone definition
options 1 & 2



NOTE: ALL OPTIONS INCLUDE THE AREA OFFSHORE TO THE STATE'S 3 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT.

Coastal zone definition
options 3 & 4



**NOTE: ALL OPTIONS INCLUDE THE AREA OFFSHORE
TO THE STATE'S 3 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT.**

breeding in terrestrial and aquatic environments. The biological environment is also characterised by complex interactions between species and the physical environment, which produce recognisable ecosystems such as marine, inter-tidal and terrestrial ecosystems. Many of these ecosystems are sensitive and fragile requiring protection. Above all, they are a finite resource.

Community issues

The need to protect biological diversity and maintain ecological processes and systems through the development and implementation of coordinated strategies, policies and programs, was constantly raised through the consultation process. It was a major issue raised at every workshop and was frequently addressed in many of the submissions received by the Coastal Committee. It was generally recognised that there are a number of policies and programs in place in NSW to ensure that biological diversity is maintained and there was consensus that these should be maintained.

Discussion

Australia's biological diversity has suffered decline over the last 200 years and because of this, issues concerning the protection and management of the coastal biodiversity have been encompassed in all recent coastal reviews and inquiries. Habitat modification and fragmentation have adversely affected native species abundance, particularly through the loss of mangrove, littoral rainforest and saltmarsh. Many introduced species are also inflicting damage on the coastal zone, such as bitou bush which has spread to 60% of the coast and displaced native plants.

The benefits of conserving biological diversity are important and well recognised to the extent that it is one of the core objectives of ESD. There is growing community recognition of the dependence of economic growth and development on the effective management of the natural resource and on the maintenance of ecosystems.

While in NSW, many species and ecosystems are protected within the National Parks, Nature Reserve and Crown Lands systems, these reserves are not fully representative. There are other areas on public and private lands requiring protection. The protection of species and ecosystems on private lands can partly be achieved through the EP&A Act such as in environmental protection zones. In addition, where lands have significant native flora and fauna requiring protection, the Government can negotiate conservation agreements with landowners under the NP&W Act.

Over and above these general provisions, the Government has introduced legislation to identify and protect endangered species as part of the development process. In addition, SEPP 14 - Coastal Wetlands and SEPP 26 - Littoral Rainforests, are two special State Environmental Planning Policies concerning the conservation of natural resources in the coastal zone.

Aquatic habitats and ecosystems can be protected as aquatic reserves, under the *Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935*. These aquatic reserves are usually multiple use management areas with totally protected sanctuary zones where all aquatic animals are protected. Several species of fish, such as the blue devil, are also protected within all state waters. Aquatic habitats and

ecosystems can also be protected as reserves under the NP&W Act (over 14,500 ha are now in reserves).

NSW Fisheries has embarked on an innovative program to protect the full range of marine and estuarine biodiversity in the State through the development of a representative system of aquatic reserves. This scheme will be based on a biogeographic hierarchical model and is aimed at defining various bio-regions along the coast.

There is increasing recognition that economic and material welfare cannot be pursued without considering the environmental factors that contribute to the community's living standards. The principles of protecting and conserving the natural environment are fundamental to the revised policy and are encapsulated in Part 2 under Goals 1 and 2.

Water quality

The maintenance of water quality is essential for the effective management of marine and estuarine environments. It is fundamental to the sustainability of the State's fisheries and the continued enjoyment of the coastal zone.

Community issues

Throughout the consultation process, the issue of marine and estuarine pollution leading to the degradation of important habitats in the coastal environment, was often raised as an issue that needed to be addressed in the revised policy. The importance of maintaining and improving water quality was also addressed in most of the coastal reports and inquiries. The importance of maintaining water quality was discussed by participants at the workshops and was addressed in many

submissions. Participants saw the major difficulties with improving water quality as associated with stormwater run-off, sewage disposal, the use of fertilisers and pesticides, the presence of blue-green algae and the dumping of wastes offshore.

Discussion

In NSW, the Government has adopted penalties for pollution related offences, including offences against the *Clean Waters Act 1970* and the *Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1989*. This Act sets down penalties that are consistent with the seriousness with which such offences are regarded and creates additional offences relating to the disposal of waste and spillage. Penalties for these offences can be up to \$1 million for a corporation, and \$250 000 and/or a gaol term of up to seven years plus all clean-up costs for individuals.

As a diffuse source of pollution, urban stormwater carries contaminated run-off from cities and towns into coastal waters. In the absence of adequate planning and pollution control measures, changes to natural land surfaces and drainage patterns brought about by urban development often result in natural watercourses, lakes and estuaries becoming turbid, silted, littered and excessively enriched with nutrients.

The discharge of raw or primary-treated sewage and of sewage sludge is a specific problem in urban areas that demands priority attention. Not only is it a source of visual pollution due to solids, grease, fats and water discolouration, but it also poses a threat to public health. The disposal of secondary-treated sewage into poorly flushed estuarine waterways can, through nutrient enrichment, cause accelerated growth of algae. This can disrupt the normal ecological balance and make the waters unsightly and unhealthy. It can also lead to

a rapid deterioration of important fisheries and recreational opportunities. In all country areas, sewage treatment plants provide at least secondary treatment before discharge. In the Sydney region there is an ongoing program to upgrade the sewerage system.

Onsite disposal systems have been shown to be a problem throughout rural NSW, both in villages and rural residential developments, and are a potentially significant source of pollution. Under the current situation of licensing and regulation, they act as a diffuse source of pollution as they are not individually licensed and recent studies have shown significant cumulative impacts from these systems.

The presence of blue-green algae in the State's rivers has been a major cause of concern in recent years. The NSW Blue-Green Algae Task Force was established in 1991 to ensure that a consistent management approach was formulated and adopted state-wide to deal with algal blooms in the State's rivers and waterways. Upon release of its final report, the task force was dissolved and state and regional algae coordinating committees were created to implement the recommendations contained in the task force report.

Discharging ballast water within estuaries may introduce microscopic algae which could be harmful to the shellfish industry. The dumping of wastes at sea off the NSW coast, also has the potential to pollute the coastal zone. The Commonwealth has the responsibility for controlling the dumping of wastes at sea and issues permits for such activity. The NSW Government advises the Commonwealth on the dumping of wastes off the NSW coast and has established guidelines on issues to be addressed in submitting applications for waste dumping within the three nautical mile limit.

Because of its importance, a specific objective for the improvement of water quality has been included in Part 2 as Goal 1. Specific strategies relating to water quality are also included in Part 2 as Goal 6.

Acquisitions, reservations and dedication

Significant natural and scenic areas of the NSW coast should be preserved. There is a need to continue to develop and enhance the natural resource inventory of the State and plan for its management. There is also a need to conserve and restore lands and natural vegetation of environmental significance. In this regard, land use decisions should be made on a considered basis, having regard for cumulative effects.

Community issues

These issues have been addressed in many of the coastal reports and inquiries over the last few years and were discussed at some length in the NSW workshops. They were also raised in many of the submissions received. In fact, there was consensus on the need for programs aimed at land acquisition, dedication of lands and reservation and management of lands.

Discussion

While a number of issues affecting the management of coastal lands, coastal waters and submerged lands transcend State Government and local government boundaries, coastal management is largely a state responsibility which is often devolved to local government. Each sphere of government has management plans to assist in the decision making process about their use and management.

The NSW Government recently announced the establishment of the Natural Resource Audit Council to conduct audits of all of the values of the State's public lands and natural resources. The council will systematically gather information and prepare reports identifying the values and characteristics of these lands and resources. The reports will be publicly available.

Several state government agencies and local councils acquire lands for public purposes. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NP&WS) acquires lands which have high conservation value for dedication and reservation under the National Parks and Wildlife (NP&W) Act.

In NSW, the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme (CLPS) provides for the progressive acquisition of coastal lands to assist in providing open space foreshore access and to protect environmentally sensitive habitats and landscapes. The scheme is administered by the Department of Planning (DOP). The CLPS, introduced in 1973, identified important coastal land for protection by appropriate land use zones or, in cases of land with special values, by acquisition. Public access to the coast's foreshore and scenic attributes are major objectives in assessing land to be acquired under the scheme.

To date, approximately \$32 million has been spent acquiring over 13 350 ha of scenic land. Much of this land has been added to existing national parks or placed in the care and control of councils for public reserves. In addition to the CLPS, the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CaLM) acquires lands as necessary for addition to the Crown reserve system.

National parks

Under the NP&W Act the NP&WS has the power to reserve lands which have conservation, heritage or environmental significance. Lands reserved or dedicated fall into five broad categories, they are: national parks, nature reserves, state recreation areas; historic sites and Aboriginal areas.

There are currently 15 national parks adjoining the NSW coastline with a total area of 124 027 ha. Twenty-three percent of the length of the coastline is in national parks. In addition, there are 16 nature reserves along the coast and numerous state recreation areas, historic sites and Aboriginal areas protecting a further 10% of the coastline. Approximately \$10 million has been spent on coastal land acquisition since 1990. These areas are continually being added to reserves and plans of management are prepared for these areas.

As stated previously, the need to protect and dedicate sensitive and scenic lands was constantly raised throughout the public consultation phase. Specific strategies and actions are already in place with the 1990 Coastal Policy and have been carried forward or incorporated into the revised policy. Goals 1, 2 and 3 in Part 2 each have specific actions addressing these issues.

Crown lands

In addition to the lands reserved under the NP&W Act, a third of the State's littoral zone is in Crown ownership. These lands are either vacant Crown land, land reserved or dedicated for a public purpose or lands occupied under lease or licence. In addition, the sea bed to three nautical miles from the high water mark and most other submerged lands, are Crown land.

Significant areas have been reserved or dedicated for a range of public purposes including environmental protection, recreation and public access. Care, control and management of these areas is the responsibility of either a reserve trust, which is appointed by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, or management has devolved to local councils under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The 1990 Coastal Policy contained a strategy for registering the title of beaches within Crown control in the name of the State of NSW and dedication for public recreation, access or environmental protection. The registration of title in the name of NSW is a costly process involving full survey of land parcels comprising beaches. Definition of the low-water mark boundary poses difficult practical problems for survey and description. All NSW beaches are owned by the Crown.

Dedication of beaches is all that is needed to ensure protection of beaches from private acquisition and this may be achieved by description or diagram without definition by full survey.

Many of CaLM's strategic actions contained in the 1990 Coastal Policy have been carried forward into Part 2 under Goal 1. (See Appendix B for details.)

Aquatic reserves

Section 16A of the *Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935* allows for the creation and management of aquatic reserves over Crown Land.

There are currently eight aquatic reserves in NSW. These are Long Reef (60 ha), Bushrangers Bay (3 ha), Julian Rocks (80 ha), North (Sydney) Harbour (250 ha), Shiprock (2 ha), Towra Point (333 ha) and the Solitary

Islands (85 000 ha). The latter two of these reserves are multiple use reserves where a variety of activities are allowed within a zoning system.

New reserve proposals are being finalised for the World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island and also Jervis Bay. Draft management plans incorporating a zoning scheme are prepared for public comment before management arrangements are finalised.

Marine and estuarine areas can also be reserved under the NP&W Act.

Approximately 14 500 ha are now dedicated or reserved under the Act and managed by the NP&WS. Under the Act, these areas provide for the conservation of plants, marine mammals, birds and reptiles. The sea floor is protected from mining and other forms of disturbance. Cooperative arrangements with NSW Fisheries allow areas to be jointly managed for the protection of all biota.

The increasing population in the NSW coastal zone has put a great deal of pressure on the State's coastal resources. While this pressure has not reached the level experienced overseas, it is now time to ensure that these resources are not degraded by gradual overuse. By identifying and managing important marine and estuarine conservation areas, we will ensure that existing recreational, commercial, scientific and educational benefits are maintained.

Rehabilitation

A large area of the coastline of NSW is degraded by infestations of weeds and feral animals, from dune and soil erosion and by inappropriate development. It has been estimated that approximately 60% of the NSW coastline has been invaded by bitou bush and this appears to be increasing.

A biological control program has been initiated by CaLM, NP&WS and the Department of Agriculture to control the spread of bitou bush and boneseed. Trial releases of the bitou tip moth along the coastline appear to have been successful and the NP&WS will continue to monitor the release sites. In addition, control programs to reduce the number of feral animals are being undertaken by all land management agencies along the NSW coast.

Dune and soil erosion are also major problems. Degradation of dune and beach areas along the NSW coastline is concentrated between Smokey Cape and Port Hacking. This coastal stretch exhibits sand drift, hummocky destabilisation of dunes, decreased diversity of native vegetation and some loss of individual species. On the North Coast, dune degradation mainly takes the form of weed invasion of dunes and adverse changes to native vegetation.

Rehabilitation programs by Public Works, CaLM, NP&WS, local councils and community-based dune care groups need to continue to ensure dunal systems are protected by fencing and revegetation programs. Some coastal ecosystems, such as frontal dunes, coastal heaths, headlands and wetlands, are very fragile. Past land uses have caused damage to these systems and rehabilitation programs are required to restore or revegetate these areas. Programs may require a range of management actions from closing or restricting some areas to vehicle or public use, fencing areas, revegetation or weed removal.

Sand drift is a natural phenomenon and remains a feature along the NSW coastline. A recent study indicated that 5 631 ha of coastal land (11% of the coastal dune

system) is completely bare and drifting. A further 2 050 ha of coastal land (4%) is in a state of hummocky destabilisation.

Critical coastal habitats such as mangroves, wetlands, littoral rainforests, seagrasses and saltmarsh have suffered declines this century. These habitats, which perform important structural and ecological functions in estuaries, have been lost due to such things as land drainage, flood mitigation, tourism developments, catchment modifications, dredging and reclamations.

Declines have been most dramatic for seagrasses, with smaller declines in mangroves and saltmarsh. For example, in the Clarence River there was 5.28 km² of seagrass in 1942 and this had dropped to 0.83 km² by 1986.

There is now a recognition that it is not sufficient to merely stop these declines, but that rehabilitation of some areas needs to occur. In some instances compensatory mechanisms for past damage may also be appropriate.

Rehabilitation measures may take various forms including:

- returning areas to natural tidal flow conditions by e.g. removal of flood mitigation gates
- transplanting of mangroves or seagrasses or creating natural conditions whereby they will recolonise areas naturally
- reinstating or creating wetlands
- improving water quality
- weed removal and revegetation
- improving fish passage, by means of fishways etc.

- soil erosion controls/closure of tracks
- feral and pest animal control.

Examples of large scale rehabilitation/compensation projects are Kooragang Island on the Hunter River and Yarrhapinni Broadwater on the Macleay River.

Goal 1 in Part 2 addresses specific strategic actions to assist in rehabilitation of the coast.

Total catchment management

In 1989, the Government introduced the Catchment Management Act which aims to coordinate the management of land, water and related resources within a river catchment, so as to minimise land degradation, prevent siltation, protect streams, improve water quality and ensure appropriate vegetation management.

Eighteen regional catchment management committees (CMCs) have been established to address natural resource management problems associated with part or all of coastal river basins or valleys in NSW. These CMCs cover approximately 80% of the coastal area. They advise on management of the catchment, for funding on local projects such as *tree planting, land care* and *dune care*. The committees include representatives from the State Government, local government and the community. Trusts have also been set up under the legislation. To date two such trusts have been established: Hunter and Hawkesbury-Nepean.

Coastal and estuary management programs

The extent of coastal processes and their impact on the coastline have only begun to be fully recognised and understood over the last two decades. Some development along

the coast is under threat from coastal erosion and tidal inundation. Pressure for development along the coastline is continuing and the nature of the development and usage of the area is changing.

Continuing erosion of coastal landforms such as beaches and headlands presents a hazard to existing public and private property as well as to the natural environment and to recreational facilities and beach amenity, scenic quality and wildlife habitat values. In recent years, the Government has devoted resources to combat coastal hazards, through strategic planning and works. The cornerstone of this work is the *Coastline Hazards Policy*, managed by Public Works.

The responsibility for planning and management of land subject to hazard risks essentially rests with local councils. Each council has been provided with a *Coastline Management Manual* and a *Draft Estuary Management Manual* to assist in the development of coastline management plans and estuarine management plans. Such plans are being developed and implemented in partnership with Public Works, other state agencies and the community.

From 1975 to 1989 the amenity of 160 beaches was improved with works including dune stabilisation, formalised beach access, car-parking and recreational facilities with \$20 million of state funds. In the three years to 1993, 16 coastal management committees have been formed and they have managed over 30 coastal studies, 70 coastal management works projects and 10 coastal management plans at a cost of \$18 million in state funds. Over the same period, 16 estuary management committees have been formed and they have managed over 30 estuary studies, 33 restoration

works projects and completed five estuary management plans at a cost of \$18 million in state funds. In many cases, state funds for coastal and estuary management have been augmented by local councils and private sector contributions.

In addition, Public Works, the DOP, CaLM, NP&WS and NSW Fisheries have provided significant advice and technical assistance to local councils and government agencies on the potential impact of specific developments on estuarine areas. Given the importance of this issue, a specific goal and associated strategic actions have been included in the revised policy. Goals 1 and 4 in Part 2 relate to these issues.

Climate change

The potential impacts of global warming on the natural, social and economic environment are becoming more recognised as further research is undertaken and published. Throughout Australia, governments are committed to improving knowledge about the nature and extent of climate change and to monitoring its impact on such things as beaches, sand dunes, intertidal zones and estuarine habitats, vegetation and to developing appropriate policies to deal with these issues. The NSW Government has endorsed the National Greenhouse Response Strategy as a framework for national action on climate change.

The EPA is working with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Division of Atmospheric Research to provide state of the art scientific advice on the likely regional impacts of the enhanced greenhouse effect on NSW. Progress reports and results of the project are reported annually.

Climate change issues are referred to in the Government's *Coastline Management Manual*, *Draft Estuary Management Manual* and in the revised *Floodplain Development Manual*, now in preparation. Management plans that address climate change are being implemented through the management process set down in these manuals. Specific strategic actions for climatic change are accommodated in Part 2 under Goal 4.

MANAGEMENT AND USE OF COASTAL RESOURCES

The preceding section dealt with issues associated with the rehabilitation and protection of our coastal resources. As discussed in the beginning of Part 1, while conservation and enhancement of the environment are seen as a priority for a coastal policy, economic, social and cultural pursuits are equally important considerations. This section deals with the management and use of our coastal resources and specifically deals with agriculture, fisheries, mineral and extractive resources, tourism, human settlement and recreation.

Agriculture

The coastal zone is an area of intensive agricultural production with approximately 21% of coastal lands being used for agricultural or grazing purposes. It is a major contributor to our economy. However, it can have significant impacts on the coastal environment.

Community issues

Generally, agricultural activities were seen as a legitimate use of the coastal zone. A major concern that was raised was the need

to ensure that negative impacts from run-off are minimised. Run-off from agricultural areas carries soil particles, which may contain nutrients and chemicals found in fertilisers and pesticides, into coastal waters. The release of acidic run-off from acid sulphate soils being exposed by agricultural practices, is also a matter of growing concern for the well being of our estuaries.

The need to minimise the adverse impacts from the wetland drainage, flood mitigation structures and channelisation was also raised during the consultation process.

Discussion

In NSW, the Department of Agriculture has mapped and classified agricultural land for councils and the DOP, to assist in preparing local environmental studies (LEs) and REPs. Rural land capability surveys carried out by CaLM for local councils also identify land susceptible to erosion. These surveys enable the identification of lands that need to be protected from alienation and inappropriate development. In addition, LEPs provide for minimum lot sizes for prime agricultural land and ensure that this land is appropriately zoned.

Specific actions ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural industry on the coast are incorporated in Part 2 as Goal 5.

Fisheries

NSW Fisheries is the state authority responsible under the *Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935* for the protection, development and regulation of the fisheries and fish resources, including their habitats. This involves implementing government policies in relation to fisheries and the fishing industry, conducting research to assist in management of the habitat and

stocks and developing regulatory programs.

Fish and their habitats are common property resources owned by the people of NSW and managed in trust by the Government. Most fisheries management, like all natural resources management, is a process of allocation between competing users. Regulation and administrative procedures are established to allocate the resource (fish and habitat) equitably between users; to avoid conflict and to respond to society's changing needs and wishes.

NSW Fisheries manages all fisheries in state waters which extend out to the three nautical mile limit. Beyond that, NSW Fisheries has entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth referred to as the Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS). The OCS has transferred jurisdiction of all fisheries out to the 4000 m contour to NSW, with the exception of the South East Trawl Fishery and the Tuna Fishery.

The number of licensed fishing boats in NSW is 3265 and there are 2200 licensed NSW fishers.

Hauling and meshing techniques for estuary fishing have changed little over the past 100 years, and the commercial catch has remained relatively stable. However, during the 1970s, the number of licence holders increased. This, together with advances in technology which improved the efficiency of the fishing gear, resulted in the catch increasing.

The modern ocean fishing fleet emerged in the 1960s, and it has apparently had a large impact on fish stocks. The main ocean fishing techniques used are trawling, trapping and line fishing.

The catches of some of the major species are declining and some, but not all, populations are in trouble. Although loss and degradation of fish habitats are important

causes of this, we now know that the present controls on commercial fishing are inadequate. We must reduce the total catch to help restore fish stocks.

In NSW, about 1.75 million people (including tourists) fish recreationally each year. Thus our limited fisheries resources must be shared by a large number of people with varying skills, equipment and angling expectations. Recreational angling helps our economy, but its popularity places a lot of pressure on fish stocks, particularly certain species in certain locations. Recreational angling has to be covered by a management plan. Angling practices, size limits, bag limits and seasonal closures are some of the things under review.

In Australia, the second largest aquaculture industry is the NSW oyster industry, after the pearl oyster industry. Oysters are farmed in 40 of the 137 NSW estuaries and lagoons. There are currently 1450 individuals and companies listed as lessees with a total area of 5455 ha. Production is now about 4500 t a year, valued at \$30 million.

Sydney rock oyster production has been decreasing since the mid-1970s but an increasing variety of native and exotic species are being cultured throughout NSW. Of the marine species, prawns, mussels, Pacific oysters, snapper and barramundi show good potential.

Access to coastal space is a major problem for marine aquaculture, as it must compete heavily with other uses. All aquaculture requires high quality water in order to produce a high quality product. However, at the same time aquaculture poses its own environmental problems. Waste disposal, escape of fish stock and disease must be managed effectively.

If fisheries are to be managed sustainably, so that fish are available for future generations, then it is important not only to manage the number of fish taken, but also to look after their habitat. The habitats that we are concerned about are those places in which fish breed, grow, shelter and feed. There is not only a need to conserve existing fish habitats, but also to restore damaged habitats.

A danger lies in the fact that fish habitats can be destroyed without much evidence. For example, dredging can destroy viable fish habitats, but the surface of the river or other water body may show no obvious signs of degradation. Similarly, oyster farming can destroy seagrass meadows.

To ensure the sustainable use of fisheries' resources from both an economic and recreational perspective, specific strategic actions are proposed under Goal 5 in Part 2.

Mineral and extractive resources

Mineral and extractive resources are significant to the economy of the State. While there has been debate in the community over the years, there is a realisation of the need to allow for their development, provided that it is carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner. There is an expectation in the community that extraction of these resources not be carried out in environmentally sensitive areas and that there be adequate environmental management systems and controls.

Multiple and sequential land use as concepts, have been advocated as a means of maximising the benefit which the community can obtain from the available land resources. These concepts are of

particular importance to the coastal area because of the population density in these areas and the resulting land use pressures.

Community issues

When the issue of heavy minerals and sand extraction was raised during the public consultation phase, it tended to be of a specific nature relating to a particular site or area. Recognising the importance of monitoring the sustainability of the State's mineral and extractive resources, specific strategic actions are proposed in Part 2 under Goal 5.

Sand and gravel and other extractive resources

Extractive resources, including sand, gravel, clay, shale, soil and hard rock aggregates, are materials which are essentially used in the building and construction industries, for example, concrete, bitumen, filling, road sub-base, and breakwater and retaining wall construction and also for glassmaking and foundry uses. The importance of extractive materials is exemplified by the fact that every building and every road is constructed (at least in part) from extractive resources. These materials are administered by a variety of government agencies including local councils.

Population growth in the coastal area has created a high demand for these resources, particularly on the north coast area of the State which is currently facing shortages as demand outstrips supply. Access to these resources and coordinated resource planning are fundamental if essential infrastructure and housing are to be made available at affordable prices in the coastal area.

Guidelines and manuals (e.g. *Draft Estuary Management Manual* and *Draft Guidelines on Public Works Requirements for Sand*

and *Gravel Extraction Proposals In or Near Estuaries*) are being produced to assist industry in developing appropriate plans for extraction and managing its effects. The aim of these guidelines is to condition extraction proposals with a view to them being designed to provide net positive environmental benefits to estuaries.

Heavy minerals extraction

Heavy minerals (also referred to as heavy mineral sands) is a term given to a mineral group which includes rutile, zircon, monazite, and ilmenite. Heavy minerals occur as small percentages of many coastal sand deposits. Because only a small percentage of the total material is required (approximately 2%) extraction of these minerals has a distinctly different and often lesser environmental impact to total sand extraction.

The heavy minerals industry has made major advances in its operation methods in the last 20 years. Its rehabilitation technology has won awards for environmental excellence and has been exported overseas. Some extraction sites have been included in national parks, an example of which is a site at Jerusalem Creek which was included in Bundjalung National Park. The Australian Heritage Commission, which listed the area in the Register of the National Estate, commended the operator on its standards of operation and rehabilitation.

Coal

The central coast area, particularly around Lake Macquarie, produces a significant proportion of the State's coal for power generation and export. Currently, about 80% of the State's total energy demand is met by black coal. Coal is also important in iron and steel production and in the manufacture of cement.

Specific strategic actions for the sustainable use of mineral and extractive resources are addressed in Part 2 under Goal 5.

Tourism

The inherent beauty of the NSW coastline makes it a focal point for the State's tourism industry. Tourism is now a major economic force in the national and state economies. Tourism activities are valued at over \$26.6 billion per annum and contributed around 5.6% to our GDP and accounted for 465 500 jobs, almost 6% of the workforce.

International tourism is one of the country's largest export earners, contributing over \$8 billion per annum to the national economy. In NSW, tourism spending is worth nearly \$8 billion per annum and employs nearly 150 000 people.

Tourist visitation to coastal regions accounts for 50% of all domestic tourism in NSW (excluding Sydney). Over 36% of all hotel rooms in the State are in coastal regions outside of Sydney.

In recent years there has been an increasing awareness among tourism operators about the potential effects of their activities on the natural environment and the need to protect the attraction, the very reason for their existence. The industry has been working with government to develop guidelines and codes of conduct to control development and ensure management practices are responsible.

The issue of the growth and location of tourism on the coast has been the subject of many of the coastal inquiries and reports. The NSW Standing Committee on State Development Reports on coastal development recognised the importance of the tourism industry. However, the

committee saw the inherent dangers in the seasonal pressures it places on fragile resources and in their over-development.

Community issues

Tourism also received considerable attention throughout the public consultation phase. While it was generally accepted that tourism is an important industry, its development must be directed to appropriate locations and facilities must be well planned and environmentally sensitive. In addition, there was a frequently expressed view that caravan parks on coastal Crown lands should be restricted for tourist use.

Discussion

As with other forms of development, the EP&A Act is the main instrument in NSW to determine the location and scale of tourism development. These are determined through REPs and LEPs. To date, REPs produced by DOP for the coastal zone have reflected the regional tourism development strategies produced by the NSW Tourism Commission. Strategies have been prepared for all coastal regions in NSW. They nominate areas considered capable of handling greater tourism development through to natural areas which should be preserved and utilised for aesthetic and recreational purposes. The commission has encouraged local councils to prepare local tourism plans for their areas, particularly in those areas likely to experience high tourism demand. Local councils are encouraged to incorporate their local tourism plans in their formal planning instruments.

The restriction of caravan parks for tourist use only is not consistent with the *Crown Lands Caravan Park Policy 1990*. Its objective is:

to develop a caravan park and camping ground system which meets the needs of the community and provides a range of facilities for short term use, long term use and camping.

As a general rule, not more than 30% of sites in a tourist park are available for long term occupancy, and coastal caravan parks are for the most part classified as tourist parks. Experience has indicated that even in a tourist park, the availability of a proportion of sites for long-term residency helps to ensure the viability of the park, especially during off-peak periods.

It has generally been recognised that tourism will increase significantly in the coastal zone and that the preferred locations for tourism developments will be the areas with high scenic value. As a result, there has been a call for policies to ensure these areas are not degraded. These policies should direct development to appropriate locations and ensure facilities are well planned, environmentally sensitive and have regard to public safety. The DOP has prepared guidelines for the location of tourism development along the NSW coast to help address some of these issues. These issues have been addressed in Part 2 under Goal 5.

Human settlement and infrastructure

The pace of urban development on the NSW coast is accelerating as our population increases and people leave the major cities in search of more attractive lifestyles in small urban centres along the coast.

However, in some cases, the problems that led people to move from the major cities - such as over crowding and pollution - are now beginning to appear in coastal and non-metropolitan areas. Garbage and sewage disposal and water supply remain potentially important issues in the coastal zone.

As population growth takes place in the coastal area, appropriate policies need to be in place to accommodate and manage expected growth to minimise these negative impacts. Policies and programs addressing urban demands, such as residential development, garbage and sewage disposal, water and electricity supply, road and transport facilities and community services have been addressed in recent studies.

Community issues

At the workshops, there was broad agreement that the coast is a unique and vital part of the Australian way of life. However, the continuing urbanisation of the coast was causing concern for a variety of reasons. Ribbon development, in particular, was often raised throughout the public consultation phase as an issue that needed to be addressed by both the State Government and local government. There was a general concern that there was a need to limit ribbon development not only from an aesthetic point of view but from a pollution and infrastructure viewpoint as well. Design to achieve compact urban form, including urban consolidation, was seen as a means of overcoming the negative impacts of ribbon development.

Discussion

The principal means of controlling urban development in NSW is through the EP&A Act and its land use planning mechanisms:

state, regional and local environmental plans. The DOP has advised councils of the Government's policy of urban consolidation and the principle that urban development should be confined to areas adjacent to existing towns and cities.

Canal estates

The growing demand for residential development close to the water has led to pressures for canal estate developments in coastal areas of the State. These types of developments can provide a pleasant environment if well planned and designed. However, they may have significant adverse impacts on the environment, particularly with regard to changes to water quality, disruption of natural habitats, land clearing and associated dredging of waterways, if they are not properly planned and designed for environmental enhancement.

Community issues

The issue of canal estates has been raised in recent inquiries and throughout the public consultation phase. While there was not a consensus view on specific measures to address canal estate developments, it was generally agreed that their potentially adverse impacts necessitate careful consideration.

Discussion

In NSW, canal estate developments for ten or more allotments must prepare environmental impact statements which are publicly exhibited and accompany development applications. This ensures that the proponent addresses the relevant environmental concerns. To assist in this process, the DOP prepared and published planning and design guidelines for canal estates in September 1991. In addition, in November 1991 Public Works released construction guidelines for canal estates.

Rural residential

Rural residential development provides a choice in housing. However, it is recognised that it must be managed to minimise any adverse effects on the environment, including visual impacts. The need to protect prime agricultural land and mineral and extractive resources is an important consideration as well as the economic and efficient provision of services.

Historic subdivisions

Paper or historic subdivisions that occurred before planning provisions were introduced can present difficulties. These subdivisions of urban sized lots exist on paper. They are often in rural or non-urban zones and in environmentally sensitive locations removed from services.

Given the importance of human settlement, a specific goal - Goal 6, has been included in Part 2. This goal has a series of strategic actions to give effect to it.

Recreation

The coastal zone offers significant opportunities for recreational activities meeting the needs of both local people and

tourists. Leisure activities such as fishing, swimming, surfing, water skiing, windsurfing, scuba diving, camping, walking, picnicking and hang-gliding usually require public facilities such as road access, parking, toilets, camp sites, marinas, jetties and surf life saving. Many of these facilities are on Crown land reserves administered by CaLM and are primarily under the care, control and management of local government or voluntary community trust boards appointed under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

Many activities are fairly passive and have minimal negative impact on the environment. However, other activities, such as recreational vehicles on beaches and recreational rock fishing, can have adverse impacts on the coastal environment if they are not properly planned and managed. In addition, the sheer volume of people who are attracted to the coast leads to the need for adequate public safety resources such as life saving facilities, coastal safety signage and appropriate beach access. Local councils need to take public safety into account when determining development on the coast and to consider the need for a coastal safety assessment. This was constantly raised by the Surf Life Saving Association as an issue requiring positive action during the public consultation phase.

Marinas

Marinas are a controversial form of development because they can cause environmental degradation if they are not properly sited and designed to create an environmental improvement. They are facilities, however, that are utilised by many. Marinas are a designated

development under the EP&A Act and, as such, require an environmental impact statement. When assessing marina developments, their impacts must be considered in a regional context and in light of the guidelines developed by Public Works. The need for, and appropriateness of, boating facilities such as marinas and swing moorings, should be addressed in estuary management plans.

Recreational vehicle areas

Community issues

The use of motor vehicles on beaches and sand dunes has often generated conflict concerning environmental damage, public safety and noise. Where this issue was raised in inquiries and throughout the public consultation phase, there has been general acceptance that some controls must be placed on motor vehicle access to both sensitive and popular coastal areas.

Discussion

In NSW, the *Recreational Vehicles Act, 1983* provides for the establishment of special recreational vehicle areas (RVAs) as an environmental protection measure and as a means of limiting unauthorised motor vehicle activity on private property and in environmentally sensitive areas.

Unauthorised motor vehicles can be excluded from lands by the Restricted Land provisions of the Act. Restricted Land is defined as land which is neither a public road nor a designated RVA and an occupier of such land is empowered to issue a direction prohibiting entry of motor vehicles. Lands considered to be unsuitable as RVAs include sensitive and fragile areas, such as the upper parts of beaches and

associated dunes, land with high soil erosion, lands with conservation and heritage values, areas close to residential areas, national parks and nature reserves.

The use of the coast for recreational purposes is addressed in Goal 7 in Part 2.

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Public participation

Public consultation and public participation are becoming increasingly important in the development and review of government policies and programs. Fundamental to addressing the complexities of coastal zone management is the need for government at all levels to have informed public participation. While most agency programs cater for public input, there is a growing recognition of the rights of community groups, environmental groups, industry groups and the general public. They have the right to be informed and consulted on a range of issues and at a variety of levels, from the development of broad policies (such as this draft strategic plan) through to comments on specific development proposals.

Community issues

A common theme running through the workshops and submissions was that public consultation should be used more often in addressing coastal management issues and in the development and implementation of programs. Participants felt that local councils should facilitate public consultation, since day to day responsibility for coastal management largely rests with local councils.

Many, however, were cautious about their council's willingness and ability to manage the coast within a consultative planning framework. Greater community/industry representation on the Coastal Committee was also called for at most workshops.

Discussion

There were conflicting statements arising from the workshops and in issues raised in the submissions. For example, the need for greater public involvement and consultation versus the need to cut back on delays and ensure greater certainty in the planning and development approval process. The Government is committed to public consultation, both in the review of the 1990 Coastal Policy and in the implementation of the revised policy.

In NSW, the EP&A Act provides for public consultation at various stages in the planning and development process. Draft REPs, LEPs and some SEPPs are placed on public exhibition for comment. In addition, all environmental impact statements are exhibited for public comment. Local council committees for coastline and estuary management, total catchment management (TCM), dune care and precinct planning all provide for community representation.

INFORMATION

Community issues

The lack of knowledge and understanding of coastal processes and impacts was raised as an issue at all the workshops and throughout the submissions. The need for more and better information on which to make informed decisions was seen as

essential if the conservation, protection and management of the coastal zone and its biodiversity is to be seriously tackled. The call for a national database or a national repository for information to overcome the problem of transfer of information was a common suggestion.

During the public consultation phase, it was acknowledged that a variety of organisations conduct scientific research and collect information on coastal and marine environments. It was accepted that while it was not feasible nor practical for all this information to be compatible or publicly accessible, it was felt that more cooperation could occur between agencies in developing compatible data bases, resolving issues of public accessibility and in establishing a central reference point for coastal information.

Discussion

A national database and coastal information system was also addressed and recommended in many inquiries. It was argued that one of the prerequisites for effective coastal management is the availability of scientific knowledge of natural resources and processes. It was also argued that the availability of data could improve decision making and help protect the coastal environment while reducing conflict.

The reports to be produced by the Natural Resource Audit Council will identify the values and characteristics of public land and natural resources. They will collate information on each region being audited from the NSW Government agencies and from sources outside the Government, such as other levels of government, members of the public, industry and community interest groups. These reports will provide

an agreed information base which will promote improved decisions about the use of publicly owned lands and natural resources.

CaLM and its sub-agencies (State Land Information Council Directorate, Valuer General's Office, Land Titles Office, Soil Conservation Service and Crown Land Services) maintain a range of data bases and through the State Land Information Council Directorate is responsible for land information and data integration at the state level. Against this background, CaLM will have an important role in establishing a state coordinated data base on natural resource, cadastral, land use and land capability information relating to the NSW coastal zone.

Given the importance of this area, Part 2 has a specific goal - Goal 8, dealing with information for effective management.

Integrated planning and management

Integrated resource management of the coastal zone has also been addressed in state, national and international inquiries and reports. The OECD has defined it as:

management of the coastal zone as a whole in relation to local, regional, national and international goals. It implies a particular focus on the interactions between the various activities and resource demands that occur within the coastal zone and between coastal zone activities and activities in other regions.

Integrated resource management is a means of implementing the principles of sustainable development. This theme appears common from the international level down to specific local level.

Community issues

One of the major concerns raised during the public consultation phase was the involvement of so many agencies, each with different responsibilities and interests, in the planning and management of the coast. In NSW, it was noted, there are over 30 local government authorities along the coast, each interacting with over 20 state agencies that have coastal responsibilities. While it was recognised that there has been increased coordination at the state level, it was felt there is a greater capacity for further coordination between all levels of government. A list of agencies and their responsibilities and legislation appears at Appendix D.

It was also recognised that the Commonwealth is involved in coastal management. Over a dozen Commonwealth agencies have coastal responsibilities. However, the main management responsibilities rest with the State Government and local government.

Despite these concerns, there was consensus that a super department was not required to overcome this fragmentation. There was no call for special legislation or new bureaucratic agencies throughout the public consultation phase. This implies that the existing administrative and statutory structures in NSW are an adequate but as yet unrealised mechanism and framework for the management of the coast.

There was some discussion, however, on the need for greater regional planning as a means of coordinating local coastal management and TCM and providing an interface between complementary management processes. It has been proposed that the DOP place an even

greater emphasis on regional planning and undertake the coordination of the variety of coastal, environmental, management, tourism and industry plans and plans which designated fragile areas and areas where public ownership was desirable. TCM management is also recognised as an important input to the planning process.

Discussion

In NSW there are a number of agencies with wide-ranging responsibilities for coastal management and land use programs. Overall planning and coordination is achieved through the EP&A Act which controls land use and the development approval process. Under this legislation the three levels of statutory environmental planning instruments - state, regional and local environmental policies and plans - are the primary mechanisms for land use planning. Development control plans (DCPs) which are consistent with LEPs can also be prepared by councils.

The EP&A Act shares responsibility for planning between the State Government and local government. Local government is generally the planning and development consent authority responsible for the management of coastal lands.

Administrative responsibility rests with local councils, each determining land use priorities within their boundaries. There has been a perception that little attention has been paid to land use planning or the consequences of local developments in a broader regional context. However, this is now being addressed by the DOP in consultation with councils and other state government agencies through the preparation of coastal urban planning

strategies on a regional basis for the non-metropolitan coastal area.

In NSW the Coastal Committee has a coordinating role as one of its functions. By virtue of its composition, it enables consultation and exchange of information between local government and state government agencies on coastal planning issues.

While concern over the number of agencies involved in coastal planning and management is appreciated, each does have specific responsibilities (and in some cases technical expertise) which is vital for the future management of the coast. In recognising these concerns, one of the main aims of the revised policy is to coordinate the activities of the various government agencies, local government and community under a single framework of common goals and objectives. The long term aim of the revised policy is the effective allocation of resources by the Government to achieve the goals and objectives of the strategic plan. It was also suggested that implementation of the policy must be monitored.

It is acknowledged that most inquiries and reports addressed the fragmented nature of decision making within and between the three levels of government. They generally called for the development of a national policy by the Commonwealth, states and territories which would provide a framework within which each state, territory and local government could develop complementary policies. This framework could provide for national funding of priority projects.

The final goal, Goal 9 of the revised policy, specifically deals with integrated planning and management.

IMPLEMENTATION

Since the 1990 Coastal Policy was released, there has been discussion on how the policy's specific actions and programs should be implemented. This discussion continued throughout the public consultation phase. In general, the discussion centred around the merits of including a flexible versus a precise policy and a statutory versus an advisory policy.

Community issues

A strongly held view was that the 1990 Coastal Policy was too flexible and therefore made it difficult for its implementation to be enforced. There was a call for the revised policy to be more precise. This was not universal, however, as it was also argued that given the complexity of the NSW coast, there was a need to recognise and accommodate local and regional differences.

There was also criticism that the 1990 Coastal Policy was not enforceable by legislation. Many felt that it lacked teeth. Others felt that enshrining a policy in legislation would be too restrictive. Another commonly expressed view was that if the revised policy was to be comprehensive it needed to be an advisory document, setting principles and directions. Some felt this could not be achieved in a legislative framework.

Discussion

Because the proposed revised draft Coastal Policy aims to provide a context for decision making and allows state government agencies and local councils to develop specific work programs to enable its implementation, statutory mechanisms

can only give effect to parts of the revised policy already contained in the various legislation which is listed in Appendix D. Comments are sought during the exhibition of this revised draft Coastal Policy on mechanisms for the policy's implementation, either in part or as a whole.

The EP&A Act provides mechanisms for implementing matters falling within its ambit. Statutory environmental planning instruments include: SEPPs, REPs and LEPs. In order for the revised policy to be considered when councils are preparing LEPs, a s.117 Direction under the Act could be issued by the Minister for Planning. This is the case for the 1990 Coastal Policy. Similarly, as for the 1990 Coastal Policy, the revised policy, when adopted, could be gazetted for local councils to consider when determining development applications (s.90 of the EP&A Act). It is proposed that the more specific development control principles under Goal 2 could be implemented by a s.117 Direction and s.90 Regulation. The roles and responsibilities of the many state agencies and of local government may fragment decision making, however, it does provide for different expertise to contribute to decisions on the coast which is a complex and dynamic environment.

Resources

Community issues

The allocation of adequate funding and resources to pursue coastal zone conservation, preservation and management was another common theme in many reports, workshops and submissions.

The Commonwealth was called on to provide financial assistance to the states and local government to undertake specific programs. Similarly, the State was called upon to provide resources to local government to carry on certain works at the local level. It was also recognised that there are significant community resources currently being devoted to coastal management, e.g. in land care programs. The acknowledgment of this community input will foster a greater partnership between the community and government.

Discussion

It is generally acknowledged that greater cooperation and coordination between agencies, at all levels of government, will lead to the more efficient and effective utilisation of public resources. One of the primary considerations of the Coastal Committee in revising the draft Coastal Policy was to develop a draft plan that was comprehensive and provided a basis for the rational allocation of resources for coastal planning and management in NSW. The revised draft Coastal Policy, it is hoped, will also enable agencies to further integrate their coastal planning and management activities (thereby maximising the benefits from the limited resources) and to report more clearly on the initiatives they are taking and the resources they are committing to coastal zone planning and management.

Monitoring and review

The revised policy must be accompanied by effective monitoring and implementation that is both transparent and accountable. The Coastal Committee is a coordinating body with broad representation. It is

considered to be an appropriate mechanism to report every two years on the implementation of the strategic actions to the Government, through the Minister for Planning.

It will also be necessary for the Government to review the revised policy after five years to ensure it is relevant and reflects the community's aspirations and priorities for effective and integrated coastal management.

Conclusion

In Part 1, the Coastal Committee has provided an overview of coastal planning and management in NSW over the last few years. It has also detailed the major issues which will confront coastal management in the future. In doing so, Part 1 provides the foundation for Part 2, 'The Draft Revised Coastal Policy for NSW'.

Part 2 incorporates a draft policy statement and strategic plan. The Coastal Committee proposes that Part 2 will give effect to the vision for the coast and related goals. The objectives address the specific issues that will enable effective coastal zone planning and management.

The strategic actions provide the context for decision making and resource allocation by state government agencies and local councils. Because the revised draft Coastal Policy applies to the entire NSW coastline, many of the strategic actions are general in nature. The Coastal Committee considers, however, that the proposed framework would provide for state government agencies and local councils to develop specific work programs and allocate resources to give effect to the goals and objectives.

PART 2

THE DRAFT REVISED

COASTAL POLICY

AS PROPOSED BY

THE COASTAL

COMMITTEE OF

NEW SOUTH WALES

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT

The New South Wales coast has a wealth of natural resources: unique beaches, coastal lakes, lagoons and rivers through to escarpments and cliffs. These coastal environments provide important habitats for coastal species. They also contain large and varied heritage and cultural resources.

The coast is also valued for its economic, social and recreational resources. It supports a population of over three million people and is becoming increasingly popular as a tourist destination.

The desire to use the coast for living, working, holidaying and recreation has led to the degradation of the natural environment. However, human activity needs to be catered for and so too does the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment.

The Challenge

To provide for population growth and economic development without putting the natural, cultural and heritage values of the coastal environment at risk. This will require policies that effectively manage the coastal environment for current and future generations.

This draft revised Coastal Policy, as proposed by the Coastal Committee for public consultation, recognises that industry and community groups want assurances that governments can accommodate the competing demands of environmental protection and conservation and population growth and economic development, in a responsible and systematic way. In order to meet *the challenge*, the Coastal Committee proposes a vision for the New South Wales coast.

The Vision

A coastal environment which is conserved and enhanced for its natural and cultural values while also providing for the economic, social and spiritual well-being of the community.

To give effect to the vision for the coast, the Coastal Committee proposes a strategic policy framework comprising nine goals (with principles and objectives) to guide decision making. Flowing on from these are the proposed strategic actions which are the operational targets.

There are nine goals which can be grouped into three broad categories:

- conservation
- socio-economic
- implementation.

The following actions are proposed by the Coastal Committee to enable the goals of the revised draft Coastal Policy to be achieved. These actions are grouped under the three broad categories listed above.

CONSERVATION

- Coastal lands and aquatic environments with conservation values will be assessed and appropriate tenures, reservations, zonings and/or regulations will be put in place to protect them, conserve biodiversity and to protect and ensure the recovery of endangered and threatened species.
- Coastal lands with high conservation values will continue to be acquired and dedicated or reserved for a public purpose.
- Water quality will be maintained or improved through a number of specific actions designed to control discharges from both point and non-point sources, including development and implementation of management and monitoring programs.
- Restoration of important fisheries habitats, eg seagrasses and mangroves, will continue to be undertaken.
- The management of the coastline and estuarine environments will be in accordance with the provisions of relevant state legislation, such as: the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*; the *Coastal*

Protection Act 1979; *Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935*; the *Rivers and Foreshore Improvement Act 1948*; the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Pollution Control Act*. In addition, specific management studies and plans will be prepared by local councils in partnership with relevant government agencies.

- Audits will be conducted of the State's publicly owned lands and natural resources.
- The aesthetic qualities of both the natural and built environments will be identified, protected and promoted through the continued acquisition of coastal lands under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme; the implementation of design guidelines, planning instruments, management plans, programs and regulations.
- Undeveloped headlands will be preserved.
- Major development on beaches and frontal dunes will be of an appropriate scale and only for the purposes of surf life saving and essential community facilities.
- Development proposals will have to conform with specified design and planning standards to control height, setback and scale to ensure public access and to ensure that beaches and foreshore open spaces are not overshadowed.
- Aboriginal, European and contemporary culture and heritage will be protected and conserved through a variety of planning and management programs.
- The rights and needs of indigenous people will be considered in the review of coastal policies and programs.

- The impacts of natural coastal processes and hazards will be addressed in management plans and management programs implemented by local councils in partnership with government agencies.
- Investigations and monitoring of climate change for coastal areas will continue and sea level rise scenarios incorporated into management plans, where appropriate.

Socio-economic

- Potential opportunities for the sustainable use and development of coastal resources, across all industry sectors, will be identified, and facilitated where appropriate.
- Comprehensive land use and management plans will be developed through identifying agricultural, forestry, fisheries, industrial and tourism opportunities to ensure the sustainable use of coastal resources.
- A systematic program of assessing and mapping rural lands will be undertaken to identify and protect sustainable agriculture land uses:
- Catch levels and harvesting strategies for major commercial and recreational fisheries will be identified and set.
- A strategy for the growth and development of ports to the year 2015 will be developed.
- A tourism master plan to facilitate the shape, direction, and development of the New South Wales tourism industry will be developed.
- *Best Management Practices* will continue to be developed and implemented across all industry sectors

to achieve sustainable resource management.

- Future expansion of urban and residential areas will provide for choices in both housing and lifestyle, and where possible avoid or minimise the impacts on environmentally sensitive coastal areas.
- Ribbon development, unrelated cluster development and continuous urban areas on the coast will be discouraged.
- To increase the opportunities for public access to coastal foreshore areas, the acquisition of significant sites will continue and facilities provided in appropriate locations.
- All beaches currently under Crown control will be dedicated and recorded at the Land Titles Office.
- Special recreational vehicle areas will be established in appropriate coastal locations.
- Specific planning, management and educational programs will be implemented to ensure public safety risks are minimised.

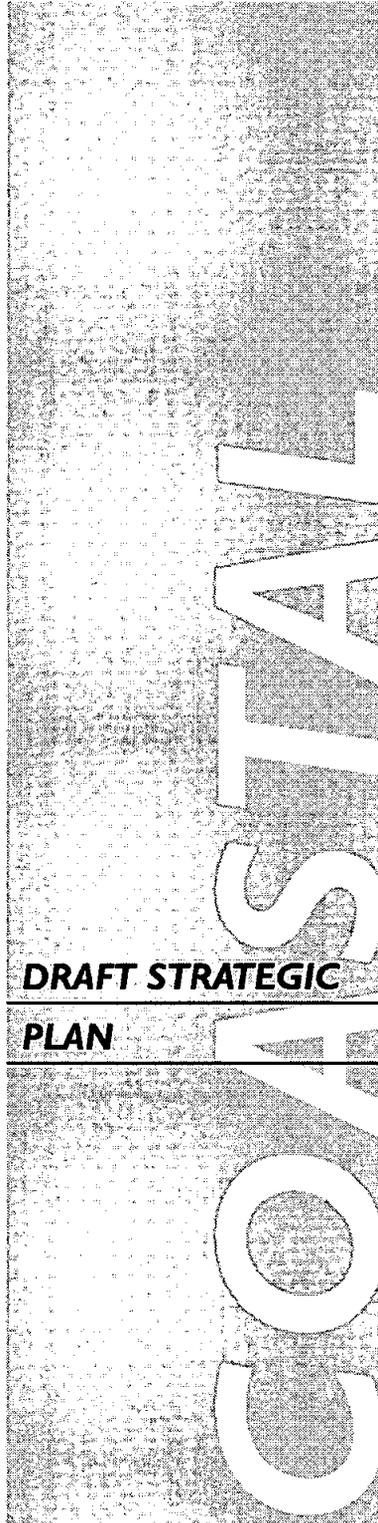
Implementation

- The integration of coastal data and information with coastal planning and management programs will be encouraged across state and local government agencies.
- Information on coastal processes, planning and management will be made more accessible to all levels of government, the private sector and the community and policies for accessing information will be developed and made publicly available.

- There will be an investigation of the development of compatible data bases for coastal resource information.
- Consistent and complementary decision making across the three spheres of government will be facilitated through the implementation of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment, the National ESD Strategy and the National Greenhouse Response Strategy.
- Local councils will be required to ensure their local environmental plans are consistent with the provisions of state and regional planning instruments and the Coastal Policy.
- State government agencies, when preparing policies, programs and procedures for coastal zone planning and management, will be required to ensure they are consistent with the Coastal Policy and have regard for national and international strategies, policies and agreements.
- Local communities will be encouraged to work with government agencies to care for the coast.

The Coastal Committee envisages that the revised Coastal Policy, if approved by the Government, will have a life span of five years, at which time it would be reviewed. The Coastal Committee further recommends that implementation of the policy's strategic actions be reviewed every two years and a report prepared on the effectiveness of agency programs in achieving the goals and objectives of the revised Coastal Policy.

The financial implications for implementing the revised Coastal Policy have not been assessed in detail. The Coastal Committee believes that the revised draft Coastal Policy will enable greater cooperation and coordination between government agencies, thereby achieving more efficient and effective utilisation of the public resources that are currently available. In this regard, the Coastal Committee does not believe that additional resources are required to implement the revised policy.



THE GOALS

In order to give effect to the vision, nine broad goals are proposed for the coastal zone.

Conservation

1. To protect, restore and enhance the natural environment
2. To protect and enhance the aesthetic qualities
3. To protect and conserve cultural heritage
4. To recognise and accommodate natural processes

Socio Economic

5. To provide for ecologically sustainable development and use of resources
6. To provide for appropriate human settlement
7. To provide for appropriate public access

Implementation

8. To provide information to enable effective management
9. To provide for integrated planning and management

GOAL 1 - To protect, restore and enhance the natural environment

Principles

Life depends on the maintenance of natural processes and systems.

Bio-diversity provides a storehouse of materials potentially available for ecologically sustainable development and use.

Future generations have the right to access the range of natural environments.

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Objectives

To identify coastal lands and aquatic environments with conservation values needing protection (ESD Core Objective 3).

To conserve the diversity of all plant and animal species and to protect and assist the recovery of threatened and endangered species (ESD Core Objective 3).

To ensure coastal land and aquatic environments have appropriate tenures, reservations, zonings and/or regulations (ESD Core Objective 3).

To improve and maintain water quality (ESD Core Objective 3).

To manage the coastline and estuarine environment in the public interest (ESD Core Objective 3).

To ensure the physical well being of the State's coastline and of estuarine environments. (ESD Core Objective 3).

Objective

To identify coastal lands and aquatic environments with conservation values needing protection (ESD Core Objective 3).

Strategic actions

Investigate and assess coastal Crown lands to determine their conservation values and, where appropriate, dedicate these lands for the care, control and management by the National Parks & Wildlife Service or dedicated or reserved under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

*Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service
Department of Conservation and Land Management*

Investigate the distribution, diversity and condition, and establish the conservation significance, of native plants, animal habitats, natural environments and natural phenomena of the coast.

*Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service
NSW Fisheries*

Establish survey and assessment guidelines for coastal biodiversity survey including priorities, classification standards, survey design and methodology and analysis techniques.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service

Biogeographic regions and centres of diversity along the coast will be identified to select suitable sites for representative marine and estuarine protected areas.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

Councils will identify community lands with conservation values for protection.

Responsibility: Local councils (s.36 Local Government Act 1993)

Objective

To conserve the diversity of all plant and animal species and to protect and assist the recovery of threatened and endangered species (ESD Core Objective 3).

Strategic actions

The changes in fish habitats and utilisation by fish population will be studied to assist in planning decisions involving habitat modification or alienation.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

The response to whale and dolphin strandings will be coordinated through identifying the areas of the New South Wales coast where strandings are most likely to occur and researching the causes of such strandings.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service, ORCA

Lists of rare and threatened species in the coastal zone will be established and regularly reviewed.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Fisheries

Recovery plans and species management plans will be prepared and implemented to conserve threatened and endangered species.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Fisheries

Objective

To ensure coastal land and aquatic environments have appropriate tenures, reservations, zonings and/or regulations (ESD Core Objective 3).

Strategic actions

An adequate, comprehensive, representative system of protected areas and reserves will be established in the coastal zone.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Fisheries, Department of Planning, Department of Conservation and Land Management

The acquisition of coastal lands which have high conservation, scenic and recreational values will continue.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Planning

Management strategies will be prepared in cooperation with other agencies for the establishment of an adequate, comprehensive and representative system of marine and estuarine protected areas.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries, Department of Conservation and Land Management, National Parks and Wildlife Service

Areas identified as having land, as well as marine and estuarine conservation value, will be assessed for dedication, where appropriate, under the NP&W Act.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Conservation and Land Management

Lands in the inter-tidal zone which adjoin lands already reserved under the NP&W Act will be identified and, where appropriate, placed under the care, control and management of the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management, National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Fisheries

Local environmental plans will be prepared with appropriate zonings for areas of high conservation value.

Responsibility: Local councils

In the preparation of plans of management and planning instruments, consideration will be given to including zonings and provisions relating to the protection and management of the natural environment.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning, Department of Conservation and Land Management, National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Fisheries

Regional open space networks/corridors should, where possible, be used to protect natural habitats and environments.

*Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service
Department of Conservation and Land Management
Department of Planning, local councils*

The implementation of SEPP No. 14 - Coastal Wetlands and No. 26 - Littoral Rainforests will continue. Ongoing monitoring and review will be carried out to ensure that boundaries are precisely mapped so that significant areas are protected.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

Where land assessment indicates that the preferred use of coastal Crown land is for a public purpose, that land will be assessed for reservation or dedication under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management

Where Crown-owned submerged land has high conservation value of state significance, it will be assessed for dedication as an aquatic reserve.

*Responsibility: NSW Fisheries, Department of Conservation and Land Management
National Parks & Wildlife Service*

Where a coastal Crown site has high conservation value of state significance, it will be assessed for dedication under the NP&W Act.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management, National Parks & Wildlife Service

Where Crown land has conservation value and is of regional or local significance, these areas will be assessed for reservation under the Crown Lands

Act for environmental protection and councils or community trusts will be appointed as managers.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management

Where leasehold land is subject to a reservation from sale which covers a major or significant foreshore area, or an area which is critical for public access, this reservation will be maintained and the area will not be placed in private ownership.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management

Objective

To improve and maintain water quality (ESD Core Objective 3).

Strategic actions

Licence limits imposed by the Environment Protection Authority, will continue to be used, as appropriate, to control discharges of pesticide compounds, heavy metals and other contaminants from sewage treatment works and other point sources.

Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority

Problems of non-point source pollution from, for example, forestry and irrigation activities, will be addressed through a range of actions. These include the setting of ambient water quality objectives, the issue of pollution control licences, the promulgation of environmental guidelines, and encouraging the adoption and implementation by industry of *best management practices* for minimising pollution.

*Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority
Department of Conservation and Land Management
local councils*

Water quality monitoring programs and environmental studies in coastal river systems, estuaries, inshore marine waters and coastal aquifers will be undertaken and regular reporting on the state of the environment for these ecosystems will take place.

*Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority
Hunter Water Corporation, Department of Water
Resources*

Adequate programs for monitoring water quality and the review of water quality objectives (consistent with the National Water Quality Management Strategy), will be provided and coordinated with the activities of relevant government agencies to increase the effectiveness of the programs.

Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority

Contaminants in marine life will be monitored, where necessary, in conjunction with water quality monitoring programs, and the results published, to ensure that biodiversity and human health is not threatened.

*Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority
NSW Fisheries, Water Board, Hunter Water
Corporation*

The cleanliness of Sydney and Hunter region beaches will be monitored and improved by:

- inspecting and reporting on the conditions of Sydney's beaches and encouraging the community to report pollution incidents
- collecting water samples several times a week and comparing them with health guidelines
- investigating the causes of beach pollution and taking appropriate action.

*Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority
local councils, Beachwatch, Hunter Water Corporation*

The highest possible quality of coastal waters will be ensured by:

- developing and promoting guidelines for the better management of urban catchments, coastal aquifers and stormwater
- basing wastewater discharge limits on an assessment of the ambient water quality in line with the national Water Quality Management Strategy (ANZEC 1992) for marine and fresh waters
- measuring the quality of ocean and estuarine waters, according to the guidelines published in the Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters (ANZEC 1992), and publishing the results
- monitoring dispersion of pollutants in coastal waters.

*Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority
local councils*

Trade waste management policies will continue to be monitored, enforced and reviewed to ensure the control of organo-chlorine compounds, pesticides and heavy metals from treatment works.

*Responsibility: Water Board, Hunter Water Corporation
Environment Protection Authority*

Public Works will administer local government control of trade waste discharge facilities operated by local councils.

*Responsibility: Local councils, Public Works
Environment Protection Authority*

The causes of fish kills and algal blooms will be investigated and follow-up action taken where appropriate.

*Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority
NSW Fisheries*

The National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil (the National Plan) will continue to be implemented.

Responsibility: Ministry of Ports

The control of discharge of toilet and galley waste from vessels in intensively used waterways will be enforced.

Responsibility: MSB Waterways Authority, local councils

Adequate vessel sewage pumpout facilities in the State's intensively used waterways will be provided.

Responsibility: Public Works, MSB Waterways Authority, local councils

The re-use of treated sludge and effluent will continue to be investigated and promoted where it can be justified on economic, social or environmental grounds. Trials of re-use in industry, agriculture and domestic uses will be extended.

Responsibility: Public Works, Water Board Hunter Water Corporation, Environment Protection Authority, NSW Health Department, local councils

The State Groundwater Policy will be implemented in the management of the groundwater resources covered by the coastal policy to ensure the maintenance of essential linkages between groundwater, surface water and the coastal environment.

Responsibility: Department of Water Resources, local councils

Environmental flow strategies will be prepared to ensure the maintenance of essential quality freshwater inflows to the coast and estuaries.

Responsibility: Department of Water Resources

Objective

To manage the coastline and estuarine environment in the public interest (ESD Core Objective 3).

Strategic actions

Programs to rehabilitate degraded coastal lands will continue in order to restore their environmental integrity.

Responsibility: Local councils, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Conservation and Land Management, NSW Fisheries, Public Works, community

In their management plans, local councils will report activities to protect environmentally sensitive areas and to promote ecological sustainability of the council's area.

Responsibility: Local councils

Audits will be conducted of the State's public land and natural resources. This will involve the systematic gathering of credible and reliable information on a regional basis.

Responsibility: Natural Resources Audit Council (with input from local councils, industry, interest groups and the community), relevant government agencies

Councils will include a statement on the environment in their annual reports and refer to:

- areas of environmental sensitivity
- important wildlife and habitat corridors
- any unique landscape and vegetation
- development proposals affecting, or likely to affect environmentally sensitive land
- polluted areas

- any storage and disposal sites of toxic and hazardous chemicals
- waste management policies
- threatened species and any recovery plans
- any environmental restoration projects
- vegetation cover and any instruments or policies relating to tree preservation.

Responsibility: Local councils (under Local Government Act 1993), Department of Local Government and Co-Operatives

The annual report of local councils will contain details of programs undertaken by the council during that year to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the environment.

Responsibility: Local councils

Management strategies will be prepared for all coastal Crown lands which are dedicated or reserved for a public purpose.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management, local councils

Strategies for ecologically sustainable development and use of coastal catchments will be coordinated through catchment management committees being established for coastal catchments.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management, Environment Protection Authority

Research into effective procedures for soil and land rehabilitation and management, including coastal dunes, will continue to be undertaken.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management

Local government, through programs such as Landcare and Dunecare, will continue to involve the community in implementing measures to protect and rehabilitate natural areas.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management, local councils, community

Plans of management will be prepared for all coastal national parks, nature reserves and aquatic reserves. These will identify programs for conservation of their natural and cultural environment and the provision of appropriate recreational opportunities.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service NSW Fisheries

Voluntary conservation agreements will be negotiated with landowners to ensure preservation of plant and animal species on freehold and other lands not within the estate of the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service

A comprehensive set of coastal resource atlases identifying specific features of the New South Wales coast and estuaries, will continue to be prepared to improve responses to oil spills and other pollution clean-ups.

Responsibility: Office of Port Policy & Marine Safety Environment Protection Authority

Environmental management plans will be developed for ports in the Sydney metropolitan area. These plans will focus on environmental protection to increase the involvement of the authorities in environmental awareness and control.

Responsibility: Sydney Ports Authority, Hunter Port Authority, Illawarra Port Authority

Objective

To ensure the physical well being of the State's coastline and estuarine environments. (ESD Core Objective 3).

Strategic actions

Detailed plans of management for the coastline and estuaries will be prepared and implemented through appropriate mechanisms of the EP&A Act.

Responsibility: Local councils in partnership with Public Works, Department of Planning, relevant government agencies

The Government's Coastal Management Program will be implemented by providing technical and financial assistance to local government and agencies for the purpose of preparing and implementing coastal management plans, providing protective measures for assets under threat, rehabilitating the coastal environment, and improving the recreational amenity of the coastline.

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Responsibility: Public Works, local councils, relevant government agencies

Development proposals on the coastline and offshore will be approved subject to conditions, or rejected where they are threatened by coastal hazards or where they pose a threat to the physical well being of the coastline, as provided for in the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*.

Responsibility: Public Works, local councils, relevant government agencies

The Government's Estuary Management Program will be implemented by providing technical and financial assistance to local government and agencies for the purpose of preparing and implementing estuary management plans, undertaking works to rehabilitate

the estuarine environment, and improving the recreational amenity of estuarine foreshores.

Responsibility: Public Works, local councils, relevant government agencies

Development proposals in or adjacent to estuaries will be approved subject to conditions, or rejected where they impact on the physical well being of those estuaries, as provided for in the *Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act*.

Responsibility: Public Works, Department of Conservation and Land Management, local councils relevant government agencies

GOAL 2 - To protect and enhance the aesthetic qualities

Principles

The intrinsic attraction of the coast includes aesthetic qualities, such as the visual amenity of the environment. Other intangible qualities are the sound of the surf, smell and feel of fresh sea breezes and taste of salt water which provide sensory experiences for human enjoyment and well being.

The attractions of the coastal environment are an important element for economic growth and development.

Urban areas should enhance the natural aesthetic qualities of the coast and provide their own aesthetic quality.

Objectives

To identify and protect areas of aesthetic quality in both the natural and built environments (ESD Core Objective 2).

To recognise and promote the importance of aesthetic qualities (ESD Core Objective 2).

To design and locate development which complements the surrounding environment (ESD Core Objective 2).

To encourage towns to establish and reinforce their particular identity and human scale qualities in a form which enhances the natural beauty of the coastal zone (ESD Core Objective 2).

Objective

To identify and protect areas of aesthetic quality in both the natural and built environments (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

Significant coastal lands with scenic qualities will continue to be acquired under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme.

Responsibility: Department of Planning

Objective

To recognise and promote the importance of aesthetic qualities (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

Guidelines such as the North and South Coast design guidelines and the guidelines for tourism development along the New South Wales coast, will be promoted to encourage good development and design in order to conserve and enforce the natural and built features of the environment.

Responsibility: Government agencies, local councils

The use of good design principles, as advocated in the Government's urban consolidation policy, should be encouraged to ensure more compact,

human scale towns are developed with their own character.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

Comprehensive regional strategies for signposting should continue to be finalised and implemented. The first stage of this process is the development of strategies for signposting attractions with the second stage being signposting for accommodation and services.

Responsibility: Roads and Traffic Authority, NSW Tourism Commission, local councils

The impact of all water-based activities, including commercial and recreational boating, will be monitored and appropriate action taken to ensure that the amenity of the coastal environment is not damaged by undue noise and pollution.

*Responsibility: MSB Waterways Authority
Environment Protection Authority*

Objective

To design and locate development which complements the surrounding environment (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

Provisions to protect areas or items of high aesthetic value should be considered in preparing planning instruments and plans of management.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, local councils

Development should be located where there is environmental capacity and where it does not conflict with the natural aesthetic qualities of the coast.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, local councils

The design of development that maximises the aesthetic qualities of the coast and enhances the natural environment is to be encouraged.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, local councils

Open spaces, which include areas of scenic and natural values, will be identified when assessing coastal lands.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, Department of Conservation and Land Management

As far as is possible and consistent with their purpose, navigational aids, warning signs and moorings will be positioned to have minimal adverse visual impact.

Responsibility: MSB Waterways Authority

In preparing and amending regional and local environmental plans and development control plans in the non-metropolitan area, the following principles will be considered.

- The scale of major development (involving permanent structures on frontal dunes and beaches) will be appropriate for surf life saving and essential community facilities.
- Undeveloped headlands will be preserved.
- Any further development on headlands will be limited to a height and scale no greater than that of existing buildings and will require an environmental assessment, including an assessment of visual impact from adjoining beaches.
- Beaches and waterfront open space will be protected from overshadowing. Generally, the standard to be applied in large towns such as Tweed Heads, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Wollongong is no overshadowing before

3pm midwinter and 6.30pm Summer Daylight Saving Time and, elsewhere, no overshadowing before 4pm midwinter and 7pm Summer Daylight Saving Time.

- Tall buildings (more than four storeys) will not be permitted outside existing cities, towns and growth centres identified in the coastal urban planning strategies, except where due to environmental planning considerations (eg hinterland topography) they could be justified. Such proposals will be placed on public exhibition and will require the concurrence of the Director of Planning.

- Applications for buildings taller than 14 m, within cities and towns, will be assessed on their merits, having regard to the prevailing scale of development. If acceptable height controls are not set down in local environmental plans, the regional environmental plan will require that any building over 14 m be subject to environmental assessment, public consultation and the concurrence of the Director of Planning.

- There will be public setback lines for every new development that immediately adjoins coastal lakes, estuaries, beaches and foreshores. Consent authorities will determine the amount of setback from beaches, foredunes and undeveloped headlands on a case by case basis. They will consider the specific details of public access requirements, local topography, scenic factors (including the impact of the development as viewed from the waterway and foreshore area), coastal hazards, building design criteria and pollution and siltation management measures. New development will not be permitted to impede public access to foreshore areas.

- Apart from facilities essential to surf life saving, community facilities, works to protect property and environmental restoration measures, no development will be permitted seaward of this setback line. Developers will be required to dedicate this land to the Crown for public use or enter into a satisfactory agreement to ensure public access and maintenance of the area to a suitable standard, as a condition of the development.

- To continue existing practice, any tourist or recreational development which proposes to utilise the natural assets of a national park, nature reserve or state recreation area must be low key and should not compromise the natural values of the area. Any tourist developments adjacent to areas reserved or dedicated for conservation purposes must be consistent with the *Guidelines for Tourist Developments in Proximity to Major Natural Areas in the North Coast:Region*, prepared by the Department of Planning.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, local councils

The design review panel will meet as required to ensure the sensitive design and siting of major developments on Crown land.

Responsibility: Public Works

Objective

To encourage towns to establish and reinforce their particular identity and human scale qualities in a form which enhances the natural beauty of the coastal zone (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

Local and regional housing strategies should be developed to encourage compact towns in a range of sizes and with a variety of urban forms.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

The *Main Street* program for coastal towns will continue to be implemented and, to promote the unique character of the main street, will identify commercial areas and promote central mixed use areas.

Responsibility: Department of Business and Regional Development, local councils

GOAL 3 - To protect and conserve cultural heritage

Principles

Cultural heritage gives a sense of place and identity and should be recognised and conserved.

It is important to recognise contemporary culture given the increasing rate of change.

The protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is essential for contemporary Aboriginal people and important for non-Aboriginal people as part of the historic development of the country.

Objectives

To apply a range of measures to assess, support, manage and conserve places and items of cultural heritage (ESD Core Objective 2).

To enhance or reinforce the views and vistas within and from towns including street patterns and layout and items of heritage significance (ESD Core Objective 2).

To recognise the rights and needs of indigenous people (ESD Core Objective 2).

To ensure procedures and decisions by state government agencies and local government involve, where appropriate, systemic inputs by Aboriginal communities and technical specialists (ESD Core Objective 2).

Objective

To apply a range of measures to assess, support, manage and conserve places and items of cultural heritage (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

The Underwater Archaeology Program for New South Wales will provide policies and a procedures document on shipwreck sites. The program seeks to increase and facilitate local government and community involvement in documenting, interpreting and protecting underwater cultural heritage.

Responsibility: Department of Planning

Heritage items and heritage conservation areas will be recognised in heritage schedules and protected by provisions in regional environmental plans, local environmental plans and the approval and order provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, local councils

The State will negotiate with the Commonwealth for the transfer of surplus Commonwealth Government lighthouses to the State Government to provide for improved public access to foreshore areas.

Responsibility: Property Services Group, Office of Ports Policy and Marine Safety, National Parks & Wildlife Service

Objective

To enhance or reinforce the views and vistas within and from towns including street patterns and layout and items of heritage significance (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

Planning instruments, development control plans and design guidelines shall have regard to this objective in planning for towns.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

Heritage studies will continue to be prepared to identify items of heritage.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

Objective

To recognise the rights and needs of indigenous people (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

The rights and needs of indigenous people will be considered in the review of coastal policies and programs.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies

The establishment of cooperative local heritage planning committees, including representatives of local government planning and local Aboriginal communities, will be encouraged.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service, local councils

Objective

To ensure procedures and decisions by state government agencies and local government involve, where appropriate, systemic inputs by Aboriginal communities and technical specialists (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

Aboriginal cultural and heritage values will be considered when coastal Crown Lands are assessed.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management

Criteria and procedures will be established to enable the identification of sites of significance to Aboriginal heritage.

Responsibility: National Parks & Wildlife Service

GOAL 4 - To recognise and accommodate natural processes

Principles

The coastal zone is complex and dynamic in nature and subject to natural forces of varying magnitude and intensity which can pose hazards to people and property.

Natural processes may be affected by coastal development.

Natural processes are affected by global climate change and the greatest impact is at the land-sea interface.

Objectives

To address the impacts of natural processes and hazards in the planning for and management of coastal areas (ESD Core Objective 1).

To recognise and plan for the effects of climate change (ESD Core Objective 1).

Objective

To address the impacts of natural processes and hazards in the planning for and management of coastal areas (ESD Core Objective 1).

Strategic actions

Coastline, estuary and floodplain management plans will be prepared by local councils and integrated into local environmental plans to address planning and development issues.

Responsibility: Local councils in partnership with Public Works

Activities will be controlled on the waterways during and just after flooding to minimise the effect of river traffic on a flood weakened environment.

Responsibility: MSB Waterways Authority

Applications for development will be assessed with regard to their potential impacts on and from coast and estuary physical processes and hazards.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning Public Works

Local councils will ensure that a coastal safety assessment is undertaken for any new coastal development to indicate the level and type of lifesaving facilities and personnel required to protect people.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

The need to address the implications of acid sulphate soils will be identified early in the planning and development process.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning NSW Agriculture, Department of Conservation and Land Management, NSW Fisheries, Environment Protection Authority

Objective

To recognise and plan for the effects of climate change (ESD Core Objective 1).

Strategic actions

Studies on the influence of climatic change for coastal areas will be undertaken in association with the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Research.

Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority

Sea level rise scenarios will be incorporated in coastline and estuary management plans and EIS requirements.

Responsibility: Local councils, Public Works Department of Planning

To participate in the national sea level monitoring program, a station will be installed at Port Kembla Harbour to monitor changes in sea level as a result of changes in climate.

Responsibility: MSB and Illawarra Ports Authority

The design of towns and buildings should have regard to energy efficient principles, for example, compact town form related to transport networks and minimise hard paved areas, in order to reduce energy dependency.

Responsibility: Local councils

GOAL 5 - To provide for ecologically sustainable development and use of resources

Principles

The sustainable development and use of resources can provide benefits to the community through continued employment opportunities, the production of goods and services and generation of wealth and value.

Decision making and planning processes to allocate resources for sustainable development and use should integrate long and short-term economic, environmental, social, equity and intergenerational considerations.

A strong, growing and diversified economy can enhance the capacity for environmental protection.

Environmentally sound management practices can enhance our national and international competitiveness.

Objectives

To identify potential opportunities for, and to facilitate the sustainable development and use of resources (ESD Core Objective 1).

To develop land use and management plans to ensure the sustainable development and use of resources (ESD Core Objective 1).

To achieve sustainable resource management, *best practice* will be developed and implemented (ESD Core Objective 1).

Objective

To identify potential opportunities for, and to facilitate the sustainable development and use of resources (ESD Core Objective 1).

Strategic actions

The land use requirements identified in tourism strategies and plans, regional environmental plans and in other industry and regional economic development strategies, should be considered in the preparation of local environmental plans.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Business and Regional Development, NSW Tourism Commission, Department of Planning

Coastal urban planning strategies will have regard to the sustainable use of resources in identifying areas suitable for urban expansion.

Responsibility: Department of Planning

Rural lands will be systematically assessed and mapped to identify and protect land for sustainable agriculture.

Responsibility: NSW Agriculture, Department of Conservation and Land Management

Catch levels or harvesting strategies for major commercial and recreational fisheries will be established and enforced to ensure sustainability of the resource.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

Key areas of opportunity for, and development of, aquaculture will be identified and facilitated.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

Access rights will be established to enable fish resources to be shared equitably between users.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

Guidelines for preferred harvesting methods in major fisheries will be updated to ensure sustainability.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

Mineral exploration will be encouraged, through providing high quality and extensive information on the nature and significance of the mineral resources of the State.

Responsibility: Department of Mineral Resources

A New South Wales tourism master plan will be prepared to shape, direct and facilitate the appropriate development of the New South Wales tourism industry over the next decade.

Responsibility: NSW Tourism Commission

Major tourism developments will be focused in selected centres and established destinations. Support services, such as airports, will be planned to meet future tourism-related demands.

Responsibility: NSW Tourism Commission

An eco-tourism policy which addresses issues such as development and operational criteria and standards will be prepared.

Responsibility: NSW Tourism Commission

Eco-tourism operations should have regard to the Department of Planning's *Guidelines for Tourism Developments Adjacent to Natural Areas* and the NSW Tourism Commission's Eco-tourism Policy.

Responsibility: NSW Tourism Commission, Department of Planning, local councils

Objective

To develop land use and management plans to ensure the sustainable development and use of resources (ESD Core Objective 1).

Strategic actions

A range of management planning approaches, including catchment management plans, will be implemented in consultation with other agencies, to ensure the sustainable development and use of resources while adequately protecting the environment.

Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority, Department of Conservation and Land Management, catchment management committees

The Natural Resources Audit Council will conduct audits of the State's public land and natural resources which will involve generating and collating information on a regional basis.

Responsibility: Natural Resources Audit Council

In their management plans, local councils will include a statement of principle activities of the council and those activities to protect environmentally sensitive areas and promote ecological sustainability of the council's area.

Responsibility: Local councils

Management plans will be prepared for coastal areas, including estuaries. Where appropriate, they will be brought within the planning system to achieve integrated, responsible and ecologically sustainable development and use of resources.

Responsibility: Local councils in partnership with Public Works, relevant government agencies, catchment management committees

Policies on aquatic habitat management issues, including environmental flows, dredging and the provision of fish passage, will continue to be developed and implemented.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries, Environment Protection Authority

Programs on protecting and restoring fish habitats, such as mangroves, seagrasses and other wetlands, will continue to be developed and implemented.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

A strategic stock enhancement program for aquaculture facilities that utilise adult or juvenile wildstock will be developed and implemented.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

Statewide planning processes for aquaculture will be coordinated through interdepartmental liaison.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

Multiple and sequential land use will be encouraged to ensure that the natural assets of the State are accessible to the community.

Responsibility: Relevant government agencies

Guidelines for extractive activities will be prepared and issued.

Responsibility: Public Works, Department of Conservation and Land Management, NSW Fisheries Department of Planning, Department of Mineral Resources

A strategy will be prepared for the growth and development of ports to the year 2015.

Responsibility: Relevant port authorities

Land use plans for the port of Sydney and Port Botany will be developed to identify the range of physical, environmental, financial and community consequences of development options.

Responsibility: Sydney Ports Authority

Councils will be encouraged to prepare tourism plans. The NSW Tourism Commission will provide assistance and advice to councils.

Responsibility: NSW Tourism Commission

An eco-tourism interdepartmental working group will be established to assist the State Government and local councils to develop and implement policies and plans which encourage sustainable tourism industry growth. The NSW Tourism Commission will participate on the working group.

Responsibility: NSW Tourism Commission, National Parks & Wildlife Service

Balanced land use decisions and the increased effectiveness of regional planning will be promoted through the availability of mineral and extractive resource information.

Responsibility: Department of Mineral Resources.

Objective

To achieve sustainable resource management, *best practice* will be developed and implemented (ESD Core objective 1).

Strategic actions

Environmental improvement in coastal regions will be actively encouraged, through the development of regional environment improvement plans and the negotiation of pollution reduction programs with industry.

Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority

Sustainable land management practices will be developed and promoted through research and specialist advice and support programs to government and industry.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies, local councils, industry

State government agencies will implement the actions detailed in the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, as endorsed by the New South Wales State Government.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies

Existing aquaculture procedures and permits will be reviewed and new guidelines introduced.

Responsibility: NSW Fisheries

The responsible recovery of mineral resources will be ensured through the granting of leases which:

- require the proper rehabilitation of mined lands

- impose conditions in the lease agreement for the prevention of adverse environmental impacts
- impose conditions for the prevention of disturbance of adjacent lands by recovery operations
- give regard to the need to conserve and protect flora, fauna, fish, fisheries, scenic attractions and features of Aboriginal, architectural, archaeological, historical or geological interest
- require the preparation of a mining, rehabilitation and environmental management plan. This will serve to document and monitor the environmental management strategy (including rehabilitation) which will apply to the particular operation
- require the lodgement of a security deposit (performance bond) by the proponent, to ensure compliance with lease conditions
- require that development consent be obtained from the relevant consent authority under the EP&A Act prior to the granting of any lease.

Responsibility: Department of Mineral Resources

Mineral recovery proposals will continue to be referred to materially affected state government agencies for advice as to any objections or conditions to be included in any leases which are granted.

Responsibility: Department of Mineral Resources

Standards of excellence in environmental management and rehabilitation in the minerals, coal and extractive industries will be encouraged through the annual *Award for Environmental Excellence*.

Responsibility: Minister for Mines

Public Works will continue to administer control of trade waste discharge facilities operated by local councils to enable sustainable development in country NSW.

Responsibility: Public Works

To encourage the reuse and recycling of wastes and to research and evaluate sustainability and effectiveness of a range of means of land treatment using sewage sludge and effluent.

Responsibility: Public Works, Water Boards, Environment Protection Authority, NSW Agriculture, NSW Health Department

GOAL 6 - To provide for appropriate human settlement

Principles

The attractiveness of the coast in terms of climate, scenery and lifestyle, places it in great demand, therefore human settlement must complement and contrast with the natural environment and be sustainable, varied and stimulating.

Human settlement requires infrastructure, services and employment opportunities at adequate levels and in appropriate locations.

It is necessary to consider competing land uses when deciding upon the suitability of land for urban and residential development.

Compact towns, with employment and higher density residential development, are necessary to sustain good public transport and viable education, cultural and retail services.

Objectives

To ensure that future expansion of urban and residential areas, including the provision of infrastructure, avoids, where possible, or minimises the impact on environmentally sensitive areas (ESD Core Objective 2).

To encourage compact and contained planned urban development to minimise ribbon development, unrelated cluster development and continuous urban areas on the coast (ESD Core Objective 1).

To provide for choice in both housing and lifestyles.

Objective

To ensure that future expansion of urban and residential areas, including the provision of infrastructure, avoids, where possible, or minimises the impact on environmentally sensitive areas (ESD Core Objective 2).

Strategic actions

Regional urban planning strategies and planning instruments will ensure that urban development does not encroach on environmentally sensitive areas. This will be achieved by identifying suitable areas for urban growth and providing for the coordinated provision of services and infrastructure.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, relevant government agencies, local councils

Population projections, including an analysis of trends for coastal regions for the period 1991 to 2021, will be regularly updated and published to provide an

assessment of growth and demand for urban and residential development.

Responsibility: Department of Planning

Objective

To encourage compact and contained planned urban development to minimise ribbon development, unrelated cluster development and continuous urban areas on the coast (ESD Core Objective 1).

Strategic actions

Planning instruments and development control plans will define the boundaries of urban areas and indicate the amount and form of development which is appropriate for each location, taking into account the environmental and servicing implications.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

Objective

To provide for choice in both housing and lifestyles.

Strategic actions

A greater choice in housing will be encouraged in urban areas through local and regional housing strategies.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, local councils

Higher density residential development, in proximity to the town centres, should be encouraged through the use of planning instruments and development control plans, to provide easy access to services and employment and create a sustained and stimulating town centre environment.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

GOAL 7 - To provide for appropriate public access

Principles

Access to publicly owned coastal lands is desirable where it does not conflict with environmental management objectives.

Uncontrolled public access has the potential to irreparably damage fragile coastal environments.

Human safety is a prime consideration when planning access to the coast.

Objectives

To increase public access to foreshore areas when opportunities are available and appropriate (ESD Core Objective 1).

To minimise risks to human safety from the use of coastal resources (ESD Core Objective 1).

Objective

To increase public access to foreshore areas when feasible opportunities are available and appropriate (ESD Core Objective 1).

Strategic actions

The acquisition of significant sites adjacent to the coastline for increased opportunities to provide public access to the foreshore will continue.

Responsibility: Department of Planning, Department of Conservation and Land Management, National Parks & Wildlife Service, local councils

All beaches currently under Crown control will be dedicated and recorded within the automated Land Title system at the Land Titles Office.

Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Land Management

Public facilities will be provided at appropriate locations to facilitate access to and enjoyment of the recreational amenity of the coast and estuarine foreshores.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Conservation and Land Management, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Public Works in partnership with local councils

Lands which should be kept for use by the community will be identified and classified.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Special recreational vehicle areas will be established as an environmental protection measure and as a means of limiting unauthorised motor vehicle activity in environmentally sensitive areas.

Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority, local councils, Department of Conservation and Land Management

Objective

To minimise risks to human safety from the use of coastal resources (ESD Core Objective 1).

Strategic actions

Areas for particular types of on-water activities will be provided and management plans prepared to resolve conflict in the use of waterways and to ensure that boating and other usages of NSW waterways are safe, enjoyable and environmentally responsible.

Responsibility: MSB Waterways Authority

Councils will ensure that there will be a coastal safety assessment for any new coastal development to indicate the level

and type of lifesaving facilities and personnel required to protect people attracted to beaches by any such development.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

Beach signs and flags must be consistent with the standards recommended by the Standards Association of Australia.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Local Government and Co-Operatives; Department of Conservation and Land Management, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing

In levying developer contributions (s.94 EP&A Act) consideration should be given to costs of providing Surf Life Saving services for the community.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

The safe and environmentally responsible recreational use of the coast will be promoted through public education programs and activities.

Responsibility: NSW Tourism Commission with: Australian Tourist Commission, NSW Tourism Industry Association (ATIA Chapter) Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing with: Surf Life Saving NSW Inc., National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Fisheries, Department of Conservation and Land Management, local councils

GOAL 8 - To provide information to enable effective management

Principles

Baseline data on natural systems is a prerequisite for effective coastal zone management.

The cost effective collection, maintenance and integration of resource data will assist in efficient environmental management.

Information and education services are essential to enable more effective public participation in all aspects of coastal resource use and decision making.

Objectives

To ensure that resources are efficiently used, the purpose and objectives of data and information collection need to be explicitly stated and integrated with management programs.

To provide mechanisms to make information more accessible across all levels of government, the private sector and the community.

To develop compatible data bases for coastal resource information.

Objective

To ensure that resources are efficiently used, the purpose and objectives of data and information collection need to be explicitly stated and integrated with management programs.

Strategic actions

Information to promote integrated land use and waterway use decisions to increase the effectiveness of regional and local planning will be used and shared.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies, local councils

The Coastal Committee is to be advised biennially as to how and why coastal data and information, collated by agencies, is being utilised in coastal planning and management programs so that the Committee can act as a coordinating body.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies Local councils, Coastal Committee

Gaps in coastal information will be identified and where appropriate addressed in consultation with all levels of government, the private sector and the community.

*Responsibility: State Land Information Council
Directorate, Coastal Committee*

Objective

To provide mechanisms to make information more accessible across all levels of government, the private sector and the community.

Strategic actions

Comprehensive inventories of coastal information, including submerged lands, will be developed and maintained by relevant agencies.

*Responsibility: State Land Information Council
Directorate, relevant state government agencies,
local councils*

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An integrated directory of coastal information and inventories will be developed.

*Responsibility: State Land Information Council
Directorate, Coastal Committee*

Policies for access to and pricing of information will be developed, clearly stated and publicly available.

*Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies,
local councils*

The State of the Environment reporting, as required under the Protection of the Environment Administration Act, will be undertaken every two years.

Responsibility: Environment Protection Authority

Objective

To develop compatible data bases for coastal resource information.

Strategic actions

Consistent methodologies will be developed for collecting, describing and exchanging information, where appropriate.

Responsibility: Relevant government agencies

A comprehensive review of Commonwealth, state and local government data bases and data systems and their compatibility will be undertaken in consultation with the Commonwealth with the view to developing an integrated coastal zone information system.

*Responsibility: State Land Information Council
Directorate*

GOAL 9 - To provide for integrated planning and management

Principles

Integrated management of the coastal zone incorporates local, regional, state, national and international goals in an effective and efficient administrative framework.

The integration of the policies and programs of government agencies is fundamental to effective and efficient coastal zone management.

Integrated coastal zone management requires a multi-sectoral approach.

Coordination of the activities of community and industry groups with government is needed for the effective and efficient management of the coast.

The crossing of administrative and legal boundaries by natural processes must be recognised and accommodated.

Broad and effective community consultation is needed for the efficient and effective management of the coast.

Objectives

To facilitate consistent and complementary decision making, recognising the three spheres of government.

To ensure all government agencies effectively and efficiently implement the Government's Coastal Policy and function in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

To consider the development of a national coastal zone management strategy.

To ensure that local government coastal policy and management is integrated and involves community participation.

To improve the quality of life and health of the community and of the environment in partnership with communities and local councils.

To ensure that the local community and the State Government (and through it, the wider community) are informed about activities with regard to integrated policies and management.

Objective

To facilitate consistent and complementary decision making, recognising the three spheres of government.

Strategic actions

The Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment, the National ESD Strategy and the National Greenhouse Response Strategy will be implemented.

Responsibility: Commonwealth Government, relevant state government agencies, local councils

Local environmental plans should be consistent with the provisions of regional and state planning instruments and the Coastal Policy.

Responsibility: Local councils, Department of Planning

State Government agencies will have regard to endorsed national and international strategies, policies and agreements when preparing statutory plans or determining approvals.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies

Objective

To ensure all government agencies effectively and efficiently implement the Government's Coastal Policy and function in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

Strategic actions

The coastal planning and management activities of agencies will be consistent with the goals of the revised Coastal Policy.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies, local councils

The implementation of the Coastal Policy's strategic actions will be subject to a review every two years and a report provided to the Minister for Planning.

Responsibility: Coastal Committee

To ensure that the goals, objectives and strategic actions of the Coastal Policy remain relevant and enable the ongoing effective and efficient planning and management of the New South Wales coast, the Coastal Policy will be reviewed in five years.

Responsibility: Coastal Committee

Objective

To consider the development of a national coastal zone management strategy.

Strategic actions

Relevant state government agencies will participate with other state, territory and Commonwealth agencies in relevant forums to identify significant coastal issues which require a national approach. This will be part of any agreed approach to develop a national coastal strategy.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies

Relevant state government agencies will participate with other state, territory and Commonwealth agencies in relevant forums to consider the need for and sources of funding for the implementation of coastal zone management principles.

Responsibility: Relevant state government agencies

Objective

To ensure that local government coastal policy and management is integrated and involves community participation.

Strategic actions

State government agencies will cooperate with local councils to prepare and implement comprehensive local environmental plans, by incorporating where appropriate coastline and estuary management plans, plans of management, local tourism plans, heritage studies etc. to facilitate integrated planning and management in their areas.

Responsibility: Local councils, relevant state government agencies

Objective

To improve the quality of life and health of the community and of the environment in partnership with communities and local councils.

Strategic actions

The community will be encouraged to be aware of the part it plays in caring for the coast.

Responsibility: Relevant government agencies, local councils

Management plans for coastal areas, including estuaries, will be prepared, to achieve an integrated, balanced, responsible and ecologically sustainable use of these areas.

Responsibility: Local councils in partnership with Public Works, National Parks & Wildlife Service NSW Fisheries, relevant government agencies

Objectives

To ensure that the local community and the State Government (and through it, the wider community) are informed about activities with regard to integrated policies and management.

Strategic actions

Local councils are to adopt management plans, under the *Local Government Act 1993*, that set out a proposed strategy for at least the following three years. The management plan is to include a statement of the council's objectives and performance targets for its principal activities, which includes its activities to protect environmentally sensitive areas and to promote ecologically sustainability of the council's area.

Responsibility: Local councils

Local councils will report through their Annual Reports on achievements with respect to the objectives and performance targets set out in the management plans for that year. This reporting is to include those activities to protect environmentally sensitive areas and to promote ecological sustainability. Councils must also report on the state of the environment of the council's area as set out in the section above.

Responsibility: Local councils

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APPENDIX A

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To review the *New South Wales Coast - Government Policy* and submit it to the Minister in draft form.
- The review is required to involve the community through a consultation process.
- The review should take into account, where relevant, any changes that may evolve through the current planning system review, new policy initiatives, new legislation and amendments since the Coastal Policy was released in September 1990 and current development and trends in coastal management.
- The Coastal Policy should be assessed in terms of:
 - the Government's objectives as stated in the policy
 - the usefulness of the document to local government, state government agencies and the community (including the development industry, conservation and resident groups) and how it could be of greater relevance.

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY REVIEW OF 1990 COASTAL POLICY

STRATEGIC ACTION	STATUS
Land conservation and management	
<i>Land acquisition</i>	
The Department of Planning will acquire significant coastal land under the NSW Coastal Lands Protection Scheme.	Achieved. Since June 1990-1993, 907 ha of significant coastal lands acquired at a cost of \$14.1 million.
The Government will adopt appropriate management arrangements for all land acquired under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme.	Carried forward. Lands transferred to or managed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NP&WS) the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CaLM) and local councils.
<i>Land dedication, reservation and management</i>	
The NP&WS will assess new national park proposals in a timely and comprehensive way.	Carried forward
The Government will dedicate those parts of the intertidal zone under Crown control which adjoin a national park, nature reserve or state recreation area for public use under the Crown Lands Act with the NP&WS appointed as trustee.	Carried forward. This action is being progressively undertaken and is carried forward into the revised draft Coastal Policy.
Management plans for national parks, nature reserves or state recreation areas that surround estuaries or lakes will be prepared in consultation with other relevant government bodies to ensure a comprehensive management program.	Carried forward
The CaLM will ensure that assessing coastal Crown land is given priority under the Crown Lands Assessment Program.	Carried forward. Assessing coastal Crown land has been given a high priority in the program for land assessment. Assessments have been completed as part of the pilot project for dedicating beaches in the Taree and Pittwater local government areas. These have yielded a methodology and principles which will expedite land assessment for the remainder of the coastline.
The Government will register the title of all beaches currently under Crown control in the name of the people of NSW and will dedicate those beaches for public use.	Revised. There is a pilot project comprising a number of beaches in the Taree and Pittwater local government areas. Procedures are now being developed to adequately define the areas. The methodology and principles developed in this pilot project will be applied as beaches are progressively dedicated.
CaLM will prepare plans of management for all coastal Crown lands which are dedicated or reserved for a public purpose.	Carried forward. Since 1990, statutory plans of management have been approved and adopted for six significant reserves. All reserve trusts are being encouraged to prepare management strategies with guidance from CaLM.
Where land assessment indicates that Crown land should be retained in public ownership, that land will be reserved or dedicated under the Crown Lands Act.	Carried forward. Since 1990, 19 new reserves totalling 168.6 ha have been created in the coastal zone.

STRATEGIC ACTION**STATUS**

Where a Crown site has high conservation value and reservation/dedication as a national park, nature reserve or state recreation area is warranted, transfer to the NP&WS will be a priority.

Revised. Since 1990, seven separate areas of Crown land totalling 1882.7 ha have been transferred to the NP&WS.

The NP&WS will assess the environmental significance of any Crown land subject to an application to convert from leasehold to freehold title.

Carried forward. Where the Minister has a discretion to refuse an application to convert, all such cases are referred to the NP&WS to assess environmental significance.

Covenants on title will apply to any Crown land being converted from leasehold to freehold title to prevent significant changes in use.

Revised. CaLM has concluded that controls on land use are more appropriately achieved through planning and development controls available under the provisions of the EP&A Act rather than through imposing covenants on freehold land. The proposal to apply covenants has been deleted.

Where leasehold land is subject to a reservation from sale which covers a major or significant foreshore area, or an area which is critical for public access to same, this reservation will be maintained and the area will never be placed in private ownership.

Revised. This is established policy which is followed in all dealings in Crown land.

Where a lease includes land which is in a significant or major foreshore area or which is critical to public access to this area, and this area is not subject to a reservation from sale, the Government will not allow this land to go into private ownership.

Revised. This is established policy which is followed in all dealings in Crown land.

Protection of Flora, Fauna and Ecosystems

The NP&WS will negotiate voluntary conservation agreements with landholders to ensure preservation of plant and animal species outside national parks and other reserves.

Carried forward

The Government will also investigate other methods of protecting the habitat of threatened plant and animal species outside national parks and reserves.

Revised. *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1991* and *Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1992* introduced.

The Government will continue to implement the Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforest State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). Ongoing monitoring and review will be carried out by the Department of Planning to ensure that boundaries are precisely mapped and significant areas are protected.

Achieved. Amendments made regularly to SEPP 14 - Coastal Wetlands to ensure boundaries are precise and significant areas protected. The latest amendment, number 9, was made in June 1993. A number of additions to SEPP 26 are being considered by the Department of Planning.

The NP&WS will complete its assessment of coastal lands under the Wilderness Act to determine which areas require protection.

Achieved

The Soil Conservation Service will continue its mapping program to protect trees in designated areas.

Carried forward

STRATEGIC ACTION	STATUS
<p>Councils will be issued with a direction to undertake local environmental studies for rezoning proposals associated with sites that are currently zoned for environmental protection.</p>	<p>Achieved. A s.117 Carried forward issued to local councils September 1990, whereby all rezonings in coastal areas require a local environmental study.</p>
<p>Marine and Estuarine Protection</p>	
<p><i>Catchment Management and Coordination.</i></p>	
<p>The Government will establish a comprehensive network of catchment management committees across NSW, including urban areas.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Fifteen regional catchment management committees and three catchment management trusts have been established east of the divide, which now gives coverage to some 75 of the coastal areas of NSW.</p>
<p>A statewide ten year program of estuary restoration works will be developed as an initiative within the framework of Total Catchment Management (TCM).</p>	<p>Revised. Implementation is under the Government's Estuary Management Program which, between 1990 and 1993, expended approximately \$18 million which has been augmented by local government and private sector contributions. Estuary management committees, which develop and implement estuary management plans, liaise closely with catchment management committees.</p>
<p>The Department of Planning will prepare guidelines for local councils to help them determine the which environmental planning measures will advance TCM principles.</p>	<p>Achieved. Guidelines prepared by the Department of Planning and state catchment management committees.</p>
<p>The Soil Conservation Service will continue research into effective soil and land rehabilitation procedures. The results of this research will be incorporated into total catchment management strategies.</p>	<p>Carried forward. The Soil Conservation Service has an ongoing research program into effective soil and land rehabilitation procedures and the results of this have been incorporated into the strategic plans of coastal catchment management committees.</p>
<p><i>Water Quality</i></p>	
<p>The Government will monitor and prepare regular reports on environmental conditions in the coastal area. Water quality in estuarine and marine areas, sand flows, dune stability and the incidence of erosion will be given special attention.</p>	<p>Carried forward. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has environmental monitoring programs in the Sydney and Hunter regions which are well advanced.</p>
<p>The EPA will revise its classification system for NSW waters and apply the new water quality goals through the Clean Waters Act.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Incorporated as part of Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Fresh Waters (ANZECC, November 1992).</p>
<p>The EPA will help local authorities meet clean water standards by implementing revised design criteria for ocean discharges.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Environmental Guideline EG-1 'Discharge of Waste to Ocean Waters' was published in February 1993.</p>
<p>The EPA will require all viable options for alternative disposal of treated sewage effluent to be fully explored before approving any discharges to waters.</p>	<p>Carried forward</p>

STRATEGIC ACTION	STATUS
Public Works and the Water Boards will continue to research and promote re-use of treated effluent. Trials of re-use in industry, agriculture and domestic uses will be extended.	Carried forward. Public Works has issued guidelines for urban and residential re-use of reclaimed water. Trials of re-use have been conducted at Shoalhaven, Byron Bay (artificial wetlands) and Wagga (tree plantations.)
Public Works and the Water Boards will continue research to improve the performance of treatment facilities and develop new and improved treatment processes.	Carried forward. Public Works has conducted an ongoing R&D program including trials of biological phosphorous removal, Memtec trials, chemical phosphate removal and development of design models.
The EPA will promote the management of stormwater quality with the publication of its manual on pollution control for urban stormwater.	Carried forward
The Hunter Water Board will finalise the Hunter Fringe Areas Sewerage Project.	The project is 55% complete. Ten thousand properties have been sewerred to date. The project is scheduled to be completed in 1997.
The Water Boards will continue to monitor the effectiveness of their Trade Waste Management Policy as a means of controlling the discharge of organo-chlorine compounds, pesticides and heavy metals from treatment works.	Carried forward
Public Works will continue to control trade waste discharge in relation to facilities operated by local councils.	Carried forward. Public Works has issued a NSW policy for trade waste discharge to sewers and administers local government control of trade waste discharge facilities operated by local councils.
<i>Fishing</i>	
NSW Fisheries will prepare management plans for all major fisheries in NSW to provide for sustainable resource management and future industry direction.	Carried forward. Lobster management plans have been prepared.
Studies of the changes in fish populations and fish habitats will be pursued. The results will assist in planning decisions involving habitat modification or alienation.	Carried forward. This is an ongoing process with research continuing on commercial, recreational, aquaculture and habitat issues.
Research stations at Grafton, Port Stephens and Narrandera and the Fisheries Research Institute at Cronulla will continue research into resource assessment, fisheries exploration and fish ecology, including the role of fish habitats. The results of this research will be implemented through estuary management programs conducted by TCM committees, Public Works, the Soil Conservation Service and local councils.	Carried forward. This is an ongoing process with research continuing on commercial, recreational, aquaculture and habitat issues.

STRATEGIC ACTION	STATUS
Coastal Hazards Management	
<p>The Government will ensure that hazard management strategies are developed in accordance with the <i>Coastline Management Manual</i> of Public Works. In particular, councils will receive technical and financial support to institute proper hazard management strategies.</p>	<p>Revised. Implementation is under the Government's Coastal Management Program, which between 1990 and 1993, expended \$8 million which has been augmented by local government contributions. Coastal management plans have been developed and implemented to achieve an integrated, balanced, responsible and ecologically sustainable use of coastal areas.</p>
<p>The NP&WS, CaLM and local councils will ensure that programs are implemented to control plant and animal pest species such as bitou bush.</p>	<p>Revised. CaLM, the NP&WS and NSW Agriculture are cooperating agencies in an ANZECC program in which several potential biological control agents for bitou bush and boneseed have been released in trial areas along the coast. One agent, the bitou tip moth, is reducing seed production at many locations.</p>
<p>The Government will implement actions identified in the Greenhouse Strategy as a matter of priority, having regard to public comments received.</p>	<p>Revised</p>
<p>Appropriate elements of the Greenhouse Strategy will be incorporated in the <i>Coastline Management Manual</i> and the floodplain manual to ensure action at local and regional levels.</p>	<p>Achieved. The climate change issue was addressed in the <i>Coastline Management Manual</i> and the draft <i>Estuary Management Manual</i>. The <i>Floodplain Development Manual</i>, currently being revised, also addresses this issue.</p>
<p>The Government will undertake sensitivity studies for coastal areas in the light of regional climate change data.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Regional climate change modelling is not yet sufficiently developed. However, sea level rise scenarios have been incorporated in management plans.</p>
Heavy Minerals Sands Mining	
<p>The Government will apply the sand mining policy to all new heavy mineral sand mining proposals through prescription of the policy for the purposes of s.90 of the EP&A Act; appropriate s.117 directions; the concurrence role of the Director of Planning and the mining approval process.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Coastal Policy prescribed in terms of s.90(1)(s) and gazetted as a regulation September 1990. The concurrence of the Director of Planning is required for mineral sand mining in relevant planning instruments. This is ongoing and is being implemented by the Department of Planning, local councils and the Department of Mineral Resources.</p>
<p>Where the mining of heavy mineral sands is approved, strict conditions will be imposed. These will require the proper rehabilitation of mined areas, ensure that adverse environmental impacts are prevented and that adjacent areas are not disturbed by mining operations.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Conditions will be attached to approvals to mitigate adverse effects. This strategy has ongoing implementation.</p>
<p>A policy will be developed to ensure that planning processes also apply to sand extraction proposals in the coastal area.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Proposals considered on a case by case basis.</p>
Planned Urban Development	
<p>The Department of Planning will develop a Coastal Urban Planning Strategy in consultation with local councils and other government authorities.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Coastal urban planning strategies are being prepared on a regional basis. Draft strategies prepared for Hunter, Illawarra and North Coast Regions. Work on Lower South Coast commenced.</p>

STRATEGIC ACTION	STATUS
<p>To ensure that continuous urban development does not proliferate prior to the completion of this strategy, the Minister for Planning will issue new directions to local councils under s.117 of the EP&A Act that will prohibit the rezoning of rural, non-urban or environmental protection zonings to permit urban developments isolated from cities and towns.</p>	<p>Carried forward. This principle to be considered by local councils and LEPs (s.117 Direction). Coastal urban planning strategies also to address this principle in guiding future development.</p>
<p>Strategic Tourism Development</p>	
<p>The NSW Tourism Commission will complete regional tourism development strategies for all coastal regions as a priority.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p>Councils will be encouraged to plan for tourism and, where necessary, prepare local tourism plans. Financial assistance for this purpose can be made available by the NSW Tourism Commission.</p>	<p>Carried forward</p>
<p>Land use requirements identified in tourism strategies will be considered alongside other land use demands when planning instruments are prepared.</p>	<p>Carried forward. Considered in preparation of LEPs, REPs and coastal urban planning strategies.</p>
<p>Protection of Prime Agricultural Land</p>	
<p>Local environmental studies will be required where it is proposed to rezone agricultural land for an alternative use.</p>	<p>Revised. Section 117 Direction issued September 1990 to require local environmental studies.</p>
<p>The Government will maintain a systematic program of assessing and mapping rural land.</p>	<p>Carried forward</p>
<p>The Government will develop sustainable land management systems and promote these through research and advisory programs.</p>	<p>Carried forward</p>
<p>Environmental Assessment and Land Use Control</p>	
<p><i>Marinas</i></p>	
<p>The Department of Planning will ensure environmental impact statements for marinas identify marina developments in the region and justify the need for further facilities.</p>	<p>Carried forward. The Director of Planning's EIS requirements for marinas make this an issue to be addressed.</p>
<p><i>Canal Estate Development</i></p>	
<p>Subject to the outcome of the public consultation process, guidelines for canal estates to be finalised and environmental planning measures to be applied effectively.</p>	<p>Achieved. Planning guidelines and design guidelines issued August 1991. Public Works canal subdivisions conditions and guidelines issued July 1992.</p>

STRATEGIC ACTION	STATUS
<i>Environmental Assessment and Development Control</i>	
The Coastal Policy will be gazetted as a matter for consent authorities to consider when determining development applications.	Achieved. Coastal Policy prescribed by regulation September 1990 thereby making it a <i>head of consideration</i> in terms of s.90.
Local councils will be advised by a direction under s.117 of the EP&A Act that all rezoning applications associated with development in the coastal zone (including tourism development) will require the preparation and public exhibition of a local environmental study.	Achieved. A s.117 issued September 1990 requiring local environmental studies for rezonings in coastal areas.
REPs will be amended and s.117 Directions issued in relation to LEPs, to prohibit development on beaches, frontal dunes and undeveloped headlands and to include building height, setback and scale controls.	Achieved. Section 117 Direction issued September 1990 for preparation of LEPs. REPs being amended where appropriate.
The Department of Planning will complete urban design guidelines for the South Coast.	Achieved. Issued October 1990.
The Department of Planning will develop a marketing program to encourage use of the design guidelines for the North and South Coast.	Achieved. Flyer produced and over 1000 distributed to promote use of guidelines (mid 1993).
To ensure the sensitive design and siting of major developments on Crown land, a design review panel will be established.	Achieved. A design review panel chaired by the Government Architect has met and established relevant criteria.
Cultural Heritage	
The Government will systematically identify heritage items and ensure that they are subject to land use controls.	Achieved and Carried forward. State Heritage Inventory Program has facilitated identification and assistance. Heritage items have been increasingly managed through LEPs and REPs.
The discussion paper on Aboriginal items, places and relics on the north coast will be used for discussion with Aboriginal groups to explore further opportunities to protect items of Aboriginal heritage.	Revised
Where appropriate, the protection of Aboriginal relics or places will be formalised under the NP&W Act.	Carried forward
The Department of Planning will coordinate a marine archaeology strategy designed to protect and promote awareness of shipwrecks and other submerged heritage items.	Achieved. Strategy prepared and currently being implemented in second three year program.

STRATEGIC ACTION	STATUS				
Off-Road Use of Motor Vehicles					
Controls on off-road use of motor vehicles within national parks will be strengthened by extending the reservations of coastal parks to the low water mark to more effectively manage of beachfronts.	Carried forward				
Areas prohibited for use as recreational vehicle areas will be included in LEPs.	Revised. Recreational vehicle areas identified and regulated by the Environment Protection Authority.				
Additional Strategic Actions					
The Coastal Committee of New South Wales will prepare guidelines for environmentally acceptable mining of beaches and incipient dunes.	Achieved. Guidelines prepared 1991.				
NSW Fisheries will gazette marine and estuarine protected areas and prepare management plans with reference being made to relevant government agencies.	Carried forward. Solitary Islands Marine Reserve gazetted - 85,000 ha of state waters.				
A departmental policy on sustainable agriculture and fisheries will be developed.	Carried forward. ESD strategy signed by NSW. NSW Fisheries has embodied ESD principles in its corporate plan.				
The concepts of sustainable agriculture and fisheries will be promoted.	Carried forward. ESD strategy signed by NSW. NSW Fisheries has embodied ESD principles in its corporate plan.				
Ecologically sustainable development principles to be incorporated into management of coastal areas.	Carried forward. ESD principles form the basis of the review of the Coastal Policy.				
An assessment of the effectiveness and viability of compensatory wetland habitats. The opportunities for inter-agency cooperation need to be examined.	Carried forward. Coastal Committee to coordinate. A large scale program of wetland rehabilitation and compensation on Kooragong Island has been initiated by NSW Fisheries.				
The Department of Planning will examine the impact of developments adjacent to SEPP14 Wetlands with the aim of developing guidelines in the future to assess such development.	Carried forward. To consider in the future work program of the Department of Planning.				
A public document will be compiled drawing together the inter-relationships of legislation and practice for exploration and mining in offshore areas.	Achieved. Guidelines prepared and publicly available, August 1993.				
Review/examine the definition of the Coastal Zone in the policy.	Achieved. The revised draft Coastal Policy contains a number of options for the definition.				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Key</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Achieved: The strategic action has been completed and therefore not necessary to incorporate into the draft revised Coastal Policy.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carried Forward: The strategic action is part of Government's ongoing policies or programs and has been incorporated into the draft revised Coastal Policy.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised: The strategic action is no longer relevant and new (more relevant) strategic actions proposed in the draft revised Coastal Policy.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Key	Achieved: The strategic action has been completed and therefore not necessary to incorporate into the draft revised Coastal Policy.	Carried Forward: The strategic action is part of Government's ongoing policies or programs and has been incorporated into the draft revised Coastal Policy.	Revised: The strategic action is no longer relevant and new (more relevant) strategic actions proposed in the draft revised Coastal Policy.
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Revised: The strategic action is no longer relevant and new (more relevant) strategic actions proposed in the draft revised Coastal Policy.					

APPENDIX C

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Independent facilitator's report on the community workshops to the Coastal Committee of NSW for the review of the NSW Coastal Policy 12 June 1993
Bruce Callaghan and Associates

INTRODUCTION

The Coastal Committee of NSW and the Department of Planning conducted a series of community workshops in February and March 1993 as the first stage in the review of the Government's Coastal Policy. The workshops were held to assess community perceptions about the impact of the existing policy and changes which might be required in a revised policy.

The report contains the consultant's perceptions of the workshops, developed from records prepared by workshop groups. Although not equally represented, a cross section of the community attended the workshops. There was a convergence of views across the workshops on the issues which should be addressed by the review.

FORMAT OF WORKSHOPS

Workshops were held in six centres on the NSW coast - Kiama, Narooma, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Ballina and Sydney. Each of the meetings was held over a full day, chaired by an independent facilitator and attended by some members of the Coastal Committee and the Department of Planning. Participants were invited through public advertisements and through individual invitations. Between 30 and 50 participants attended each meeting.

Participants

environmental groups	catchment management	local government
state agencies	sand mining industry	development industry
business	extractive industry	water management
surf lifesaving	farming/agriculture	tourism industry
housing industry	dune protection	recreational fishing
fishing industry	local commercial groups	residents

There were differing points of view expressed about contentious issues but a consensus on major environmental, economic and management issues. The few differences between the workshops tended to be site specific and reflect the differences in location.

SUMMARY OF VIEWS

Issues and desired future

There was general agreement on the issues which should be addressed in a coastal policy. These issues can be broadly represented thus:

Issue

Interpretation in practice

Environmental protection enhancement

Environmental protection is the main priority in coastal policy. Policy should apply holistically to protect all ecological systems influencing the coast.

Objectivity

Sound decisions require good information. Greater accessibility of information is required.

Coordination

Future policy must be coordinated, as must coastal management. Policy should provide a framework for departments to work more effectively together.

Practical implementation

Policy must be enforceable through links to legislation (probably existing). Policy must provide framework for implementation so that local government can apply it.

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Clarity

The policy and its implications should be clear and able to be implemented.

Long term commitment

Policy should reflect the commitment of the Government to the long-term future.

Respect for difference and diversity

The plan must accommodate biological, geographical and cultural differences, with the capacity to deal with local differences.

Community consultation

Good policy is developed and reviewed through participation. Community responsibility for the coast must be based on information, consultation and accountability.

Balanced development

Growth is inevitable in the short term. Economic development and employment should accompany population development.

Scope of the policy

There was general support for the view that a future state policy should be linked to a national policy, which set objectives for the Australian coastline and made provision for national funding of priority projects. It was agreed that the NSW policy should provide a single framework for state agencies and for regional and local management.

Definition of the coast

There was general dissatisfaction with the current definition. A majority view was that the best possible map definition for the future would include estuaries, coastal lakes and lagoons within the existing one kilometre boundary. At all workshops the view was expressed that the definition should be varied where systems vital to the coast involved areas outside the boundary.

Coordination of the policy

A major role was afforded to local government, although some participants were cautious about councils' capacity to manage the coast within a consultative planning framework. It was generally agreed that coordination should be achieved through an enhanced role for the Coastal Committee and an existing state government agency such as the Department of Planning. Greater representation of industry and community interests on the Coastal Committee was also supported. Regional planning was proposed as a means of coordinating local coastal management and total catchment management.

Community consultation

There was strong support for a public education commitment in the policy and significant support for state or Commonwealth funding to assist the community in the consultative process and for community challenges to development proposals.

Conservation

It was considered that principles of ecologically sustainable development/use should form the basis of the policy. The principles of total catchment management (TCM) should also be incorporated. State Environmental Planning Policy No. 14 - Coastal Wetlands (SEPP14) received strong support.

Coastal management

It was consistently argued that current mechanisms for coastal management are confusing and inefficient. There was support for:

- a single policy to establish common goals for the coast
- a dispute mechanism to resolve interdepartmental conflicts
- a dispute mechanism to review decisions which is accessible to the community
- consideration of environmental factors on a real cost basis
- public acquisition and crown management of coastal lands
- compensation for private landowners affected by policy decisions
- adequate funding
- more research and development by departments with a role on the coast
- more objective and rigorous environmental impact assessment
- coordination of a coastal data base.

Economic development

There was agreement that the policy should encourage balanced economic development and employment opportunities. Concern was expressed about:

- regeneration following heavy mineral sand mining
- sand extraction
- over-regulation of agricultural activity within the coastal zone
- management of caravan parks
- the need for regulation of aquaculture and mariculture
- strip development along the coast.

The roles of government

There was consensus that all levels of government should collaborate in a national coastal policy framework. Funding was considered to be an important component of that collaboration. Participants supported a policy framework that provided clear role definition for the Commonwealth Government, State Government and local government and a funding process which takes account of capacity to pay for coastal management at each level of government.

APPENDIX D

GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

IN COASTAL MANAGEMENT

A large number of government departments and authorities are involved in the decision-making processes relating to the management of the State's coastal zone. The following is a summary of those departments listing the legislation which covers each department.

Organisation	Minister	Legislation	Role
Organisations with a large role in coastal management:			
Department of Planning	Minister for Planning	<i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979</i> <i>Coastal Protection Act 1979</i> <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>	The department is responsible for environmental planning issues. Functions include coordinating regional, coastal and metropolitan planning and urban land release; policy development and research on matters of state or regional significance; assessing environmental impact statements; and monitoring the operation of the environmental planning system.
Public Works	Minister for Public Works	<i>Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948</i>	To improve the quality of life and health of the community and of the environment by providing leadership, expertise and solutions in water related services and environmental management in partnership with communities and local councils.
		<i>Coastal Protection Act 1979</i>	
		<i>Public Works Act 1912</i>	
		<i>Lake Illawarra Authority Act 1987</i>	
		<i>Chipping Norton Lake Authority Act 1977</i>	
		<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	
Organisations with a substantial interest in coastal management:			
Office of Aboriginal Affairs	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (amended 1986)</i>	Provide advice, assistance and information on policies and programs related to the life and culture of Aboriginal peoples.
NSW Agriculture	Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries	<i>Agricultural Holdings Act 1941</i>	The department is primarily a service provider to the food and fibre industries. It functions as a bridge between consumers and primary producers through providing integrated and market driven policy, research, advisory and regulatory services.
		<i>Dairy Industry Act 1979</i>	
		<i>Fertilizers Act 1985</i>	
		<i>Pesticides Act 1978</i>	
		<i>Rural Lands Protection Act 1989</i>	
		<i>Stock (Chemical Residues) Act 1975</i>	
Department of Business & Regional Development	Minister for Small Business & Minister for Regional Development	<i>State Development and Industries Assistance Act 1966</i>	The department provides policy advice to government on issues related to small business. It also provides information, advice and training to those either starting a new business or wishing to improve their skills and business practices.
		<i>Country Industries</i>	

		<i>(Payroll Tax Rebate) Act 1977</i>	
		<i>Small Businesses' Development Corporation Act 1984</i>	
		<i>Science and Technology Council Act 1979</i>	
		<i>Growth Centres (Development Corporations) Act 1974</i>	
		<i>Growth Centres (Land Acquisition) Act 1974</i>	
		<i>Albury-Wodonga Development Act 1974</i>	
NSW Fisheries	Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries	<i>Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935</i>	The role of NSW Fisheries is to protect and manage the fish resources of the State. <i>Fish</i> are defined in the Act as all aquatic animals except for whales, so the department has wide-ranging responsibilities. While the department manages commercial and recreational fishing activities, it also plays a major role in protecting key fish habitats.
Hunter Water Corporation Limited	Minister for Housing	<i>Hunter Water Board (Corporatisation) Act 1991</i>	Provides drinking water and removes waste water within the Hunter Region.
Lake Illawarra Authority	Minister for Public Works	<i>Lake Illawarra Authority Act 1987</i>	Seeks to arrest the natural decline and to improve the environment of Lake Illawarra.
Department of Conservation and Land Management	Minister for Land and Water Conservation	<i>Soil Conservation Act 1938</i>	Establishing, promulgating and monitoring land management standards to protect the State's natural resources.
		<i>Catchment Management Act 1989</i>	Providing an integrated approach to sustainable natural resources management on a catchment basis.
		<i>Crown Lands Act 1989; Crown Lands Continued (Tenures Act) 1989</i>	Management of Crown lands for the benefit of the people of NSW, including overseeing a system of public reserves set aside for recreation, community purposes and environmental protection.
		<i>Public Reserves Management Fund Act 1989</i>	Administration of the Public Reserves Management Fund which contributes government funding for developing, acquiring, maintaining and protecting Crown reserves.
		<i>Commons Management Act 1989</i>	Appointment of trusts for the care, control and management of public lands set aside as commons.
		<i>National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974</i> (in respect of certain state recreation areas - Arakoon and Killalea being on the coast)	Appointment of trusts for the care, control and management of certain state recreation areas and general ly overseeing operations in these areas.
Department of Local Government and Co-Operatives	Minister for Local Government and Co-Operatives	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	To provide and manage a policy and legislative framework for a responsible system of government in NSW.

Maritime Services Board Sydney Ports Authority Hunter Port Authority Illawarra Port Authority Waterways Authority	Minister for Ports	<i>Marine Administration Act 1989</i>	To facilitate the efficient exchange of trade through the State's seaports for the optimum benefit of the people of NSW, to ensure safe and balanced use of the State's harbours and navigable waters and to ensure the protection of the unique marine environment in NSW ports and waterways. To ensure that boating on NSW waterways is safe, enjoyable and environmentally responsible.
		<i>Maritime Services Act 1935</i>	
		<i>Navigation Act 1901</i>	
		<i>Pilotage Act 1971</i>	
		<i>Marine (Boating Safety - Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1991</i>	
		<i>Sydney Harbour Trust Act 1901</i>	
		<i>Marine Port Charges Act 1989</i>	
		<i>Commercial Vessels Act 1979</i>	
		<i>Marine Pollution Act 1987</i>	
Office of Ports Policy and Marine Safety	Minister for Ports		Responsible for marine policies, monitoring port management, overseeing marine and environmental regulations and coordinating the national plan in New South Wales.
Department of Mineral Resources	Minister for Mines	<i>Mining Act 1992</i>	To promote the responsible development, management and utilisation of the mineral resources of New South Wales.
		<i>Mines Inspection Act 1901</i>	
		<i>Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982</i>	
		<i>Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i>	
		<i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982</i>	
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Minister for the Environment	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	The aims of the service are: conserving nature, including animals, plants and places of natural and scenic beauty; providing our predominantly urban society with the opportunity to have outdoor recreational experiences; and preserving historic sites and areas of significance to Aboriginal culture.
		<i>Wilderness Act 1987</i>	
		<i>Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1991</i>	
		<i>Lord Howe Island Act 1974</i>	

Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing	Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing	<i>Sporting Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1977</i>	The department seeks to foster individual fulfilment through participating in sporting and recreational activities. It has a state-wide network of regional offices and sport and recreation centres offering community recreational services, camping and training facilities, water safety education and learn-to-swim programs and vacation activity centres.
Environment Protection Authority	Minister for the Environment	<i>Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991</i>	The objectives of the Environment Protection Authority are to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment in the State, having regard to the need to maintain ecologically sustainable development and to reduce the risks to human health and prevent the degradation of the environment.
		<i>Clean Air Act 1961</i>	
		<i>Clean Waters Act 1970</i>	
		<i>Noise Control Act 1975</i>	
		<i>Recreation Vehicles Act 1985</i>	
		<i>Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985</i>	
		<i>Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1989</i>	
		<i>Environmental Education Trust Act 1990</i>	
		<i>Environmental Research Trust Act 1990</i>	
		<i>Waste Disposal Act 1970</i>	
		<i>Dangerous Goods Act 1975 (Transport)</i>	
		<i>Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Trust Act 1990</i>	
		<i>Pollution Control Act 1970</i>	
		<i>Radiation Control Act 1990</i>	
<i>Unhealthy Building Land Act 1990</i>			
NSW Tourism Commission	Minister for Tourism	<i>Tourism Commission Act (As Amended) 1984</i>	The effective promotion and marketing of domestic and international travel to and within NSW.
			Identifying and encouraging the development of appropriate tourism ventures and services.
			Providing advice and information on NSW tourism to government, industry and the public.

Water Board	Minister for Housing	<i>Water Board Act 1987</i>	Delivers drinking water and removes waste water within the Sydney, Blue Mountains and Illawarra Regions.
Department of Water Resources	Minister for Land and Water Conservation	<i>Water Administration Act 1986</i>	Maximises the long-term benefit of the State's water resources by providing equitable sharing of water among various users to achieve maximum economic development consistent with environmental protection.
		<i>Water Act 1912</i>	
		<i>Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1984</i>	
		<i>Farm Water Supplies Act 1946</i>	
		<i>NSW - Queensland Government Border Rivers Act 1947</i>	
		<i>Drainage Act 1939</i>	
		<i>Water Supply Authorities Act 1987</i>	

APPENDIX E

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

Treaty	Issue	Objective
China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment 1986 (CAMBA)	Nature conservation	Bilateral agreements to reinforce Ramsar Convention as well as extending Australia's commitment to protect migratory birds other than waterfowl, birds in danger of extinction and their environment.
Japan - Australia Migratory Birds Agreement		
Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment 1974 (JAMBA)		
USSR - Australia Migratory Birds Agreement		
Climate Change Convention 1992	Climate change	To achieve stabilisation of Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system and within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change and to enable sustainable food production and economic development.
Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	Conservation of biological diversity	The objectives of the convention are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair sharing of the benefits arising out of using genetic resources. including by access to genetic resources and by transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies and by funding.
Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) 1979	Conservation of migratory species	Provides a framework for enhancing the conservation status of rare and threatened migratory species.
Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific 1976 (Apia Convention)	Nature conservation	Establishes a framework for nature conservation in the South Pacific region, particularly in relation to migratory and endangered species, or preserving and managing wildlife habitat and terrestrial ecosystems.
Convention on the Continental Shelf 1958	Exploration and exploitation	Protects rights of states to their continental shelf
Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora 1973 (CITES)	Nature conservation	Regulates trade in species threatened with extinction

Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property	Cultural protection	To prevent the illegal export of cultural heritage items and provide for the return of items illegally exported.
Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific 1989	Driftnet fishing	To protect non-target fish and marine wildlife within the convention area.
Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP) 1986 and related protocols (two)	Protection, management	A comprehensive, umbrella agreement for protecting, managing and developing the marine and coastal environment of the South Pacific Region. It lists sources of pollution which require control and identifies environmental management issues requiring regional cooperation.
Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972	Cultural and natural heritage	Establishes a scientific system for permanent protection of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value.
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) 1971	Conservation of wetlands	To promote conservation of wetlands and waterfowl, to establish nature reserves on wetlands, to provide adequately for their protection and management and to train personnel competent in the field of wetlands research and management.
Convention of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) 1947	Meteorology	
Protocol of 1984 to amend the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC) of 29 November 1969 (under the auspices of IMO)	Marine pollution	To ensure owners of oil tankers visiting Australian ports have appropriate levels of insurance to cover liability for pollution damage.
International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties 1969 (under the auspices of IMO); and Protocol relating to International Convention relating to Marine Pollution by Substances other than Oil 1973 (under the auspices of IMO)	Marine pollution	Provide powers to intervene on the high seas in respect of marine casualties resulting in, or likely to result in, major environmental damage except for warships.
International Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Dumping Convention) 1972	Marine pollution	Controls dumping from any ships, aircraft or platforms in Australian waters and by Australian ships or aircraft in any part of the sea.
International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) 1973, and Protocols I & II	Quality of coastal waters	To prevent pollution from disposal of oil, noxious liquids, harmful packaged substances and garbage from ships of all sizes, including recreational craft.

International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (International Whaling Convention)	Regulation of whaling	Established International Whaling Commission (IWC). Main objective is conservation of whale stocks.
International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974		
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982	Marine conservation and management	International obligations for management and conservation of natural resources, living and non-living, in Australian Fishing Zone, the Continental Shelf and Territorial Sea.

APPENDIX F

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APPENDIX G

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acid sulphate soils

These are soils containing iron pyrite (naturally found in estuarine sediments) which on exposure to oxygen decomposes to form sulphuric acid. This can result in highly acidic soil and run-off conditions which have detrimental effects on plant growth, fish and aquatic organisms.

Beachwatch

The Environment Protection Authority's *Beachwatch* service reports on 34 Sydney beaches from Palm Beach to Cronulla. A visual assessment of all beaches is carried out daily. Six beaches in the south are sampled daily and 28 beaches are sampled every sixth day, on rainy days and also on days after significant rainfall. Daily bulletins are released, with two routine bulletins per day during summer and updates when conditions change. Monthly summaries and bi-annual seasonal reports are provided to the public.

Coastal hazards policy

A New South Wales government policy adopted in 1988 that provides for:

- reducing the impact of coastal forces on existing development
- containing the potential for coastal damage by effective planning and development control
- a merit approach to all development and building decisions which take account of social, economic, ecological and coastal process considerations.

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Coastal lands protection scheme

Initiated by the coalition government in 1973 in response to the need to protect certain coastal lands from increasing development pressure. Lands identified for protection are zoned for acquisition and purchased via negotiations at an agreed market value.

Coastal management program

A New South Wales government program, administered by Public Works, which provides local government and agencies with the technical and financial assistance to prepare and implement coastal management plans.

Estuary management program

A New South Wales government program, administered by Public Works, which provides local government and agencies with the technical and financial assistance to prepare and implement estuary management plans.

Coastline and estuary management committee

Committees of local councils which assist councils to develop and implement coastline and estuary management plans.

Coastline management manual

A New South Wales Government manual, published in 1990, which establishes a coastal management system, discusses coastal management options and provides background on coastal processes and hazards.

Coastal urban planning strategies

These provide broad guidelines for the future expansion of urban areas along the coast. The strategies may also address the actions required to facilitate urban development. The strategies consider the projected future demand for urban land plus the need to retain and protect environmentally sensitive areas. It is anticipated that the strategies will provide the basis for local environmental plans prepared for local government areas covered by the strategies.

Designated development

A list of developments contained in Schedule 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 1980. It generally contains heavy industry with high pollution potential but also includes other developments having substantial environmental impacts. An application for consent to undertake a designated development must be accompanied by an environmental impact statement.

Developer contributions (s.94)

Refers to contributions, either monetary or the granting of lands, that can be levied from developers by local councils under s.94 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to compensate for increased demands for facilities or infrastructure as a result of specific developments.

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Draft estuary management manual

A draft New South Wales government manual, published for comment in 1992. It advocates a management process for estuaries similar to that established in the *Coastline Management Manual*, discusses estuary management options and provides background on estuarine processes.

Dune care

A specific form of *Landcare* involving the community working as unpaid volunteers, on public land for the public good. Dune care groups are found along the New South Wales coastline and are active in a range of coastal conservation activities

Ecologically sustainable development (ESD)

Can be defined as development which meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Involves combining development with the protection and maintenance of ecological processes and biological diversity.

Enhanced greenhouse effect

Refers to the changes in the Earth's climate as a result of increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to human activity.

Floor space ratio (FSR)

Is a ratio of a building's total floor space in m² to the size of the allotment of land on which it is located. Used as a planning restriction on permissible building heights.

Heritage register

A proposed list of items which have been identified and assessed using State Heritage Inventory Program evaluation criteria and verified by an independent body. It may or may not have statutory status.

Intergovernmental agreement on the environment

Aims to provide the basis for a new cooperative approach to the management of environmental issues in Australia. It involves the three spheres of government and delineates the responsibilities and interests of each. (Described and discussed in Part 1.)

Interim conservation order (ICO)

An order made under Section 26 of the *Heritage Act 1977* to control demolition and development. This order lasts for one year or until revoked.

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Landcare

Landcare is a community action program which supports the community participation of groups in land degradation problems and solutions. *Landcare* involves coordination and cooperation to encourage sustainable land use and help to control land degradation problems.

Littoral rainforest

Specialised form of rainforest community that grows in scattered pockets on headlands and sand dunes along the coast. Given protection under State Environmental Planning Policy No. 26.

Local environmental plan (LEP)

A planning instrument made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* which takes a wide range of forms, from site specific guidelines to dealing with an entire local government area. The instrument is legally binding on the State Government, local government and developers. Primarily the domain of local government.

Local tourism plans

These plans serve as a guide to developers and the community and establish a basis for coordinating public and private sector investment in tourism development and re-development.

Main Street Program

The Main Street New South Wales Program has been designed to encourage the revitalisation and promotion of town centres throughout the State. Through this program, local government, the local business people and the community work together to improve the physical, economic and social environment of their commercial districts.

Ocean Watch

Ocean Watch is the environmental interest group of the commercial fishing industry. Ocean Watch provides advice to the commercial fishing industry on the nature of, and possible solutions to, environmental problems of concern to the fishing industry. Ocean Watch also lobbies the three strata of government on issues that are of broad interest to the industry.

Permanent conservation order (PCO)

An order made under Section 44 of the *Heritage Act 1977*. This order remains in place indefinitely, unless revoked and also controls demolition or development.

Planning instruments

Includes State Environmental Planning Policies, regional environmental plans and local environmental plans.

Regional environmental plans (REPs) and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)

These instruments can only be made where the Minister is of the opinion that they are concerned with matters of environmental planning significance for a region or for the State respectively. Primarily the domain of the State Government and generally prevails over LEPs.

Regional tourism development strategies

These strategies provide guidelines for coordinating public sector policy on tourism planning and development at a regional level; identify areas within a region suitable for tourism development; and suggest broad strategies to promote growth.

Section 90 *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Specifies matters for consideration by a consent authority e.g. local council, when determining a development application.

Section 117 direction

A direction by the Minister for Planning, under Section 117 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to a public authority or person to carry out their function under the Act or an environmental planning instrument.

State heritage inventory program (SHIP)

The Department of Planning is currently developing SHIP to assist in achieving a coordinated, consistent approach to identifying and assessing heritage items.

The injured coastline

An inquiry into the environmental degradation of the Australian coastline and coastal waters, undertaken in April 1991 by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts.

Urban consolidation

Refers to the state government policy which encourages the economical and efficient use of urban land, public services and infrastructure by promoting higher density housing developments in established areas. Envisaged to help problems of urban sprawl.

Urban development programs

These programs aim to provide an adequate supply of new residential land and to coordinate the planing and servicing of these areas. Programs operate in the Sydney, Illawarra and Hunter regions.

Voluntary conservation agreement

An agreement entered into with land owners under s.69 of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1978* which can restrict or modify the use of a particular site, building or area. Applied to areas of special significance.