



National Campaign Policy on Coastal Development and Biodiversity Conservation

More than 80% of Australia's population lives within 50 km of the coast, and the fertile soils associated with coastal area and floodplains have encouraged the establishment of large areas of intensive agriculture (i.e. cropping and improved pastures).

As a consequence of this coastal concentration of population and agriculture, extensive areas of coastal native flora and fauna communities have been lost, damaged or fragmented as a result of clearing for development and agriculture, introduction of plant and animal pests, and alterations to the natural fire regime. Similarly, riverine, estuarine and marine ecosystems have been affected by agricultural and urban runoff, sewage discharge, recreational and commercial fishing, and in some cases simply high concentrations of recreational use. In order to protect and enhance remaining coastal terrestrial, riverine, estuarine and marine biodiversity, Surfrider Foundation Australia advocates the following:

- Development should be excluded from public open space, areas of native vegetation and vacant crown land that is contiguous with coastal foreshores and estuaries.
- Development in the coastal zone should be limited to infill and consolidation of the existing development footprint (vertical and horizontal). Note: With specific reference to redevelopment of surf club premises this should be for the purpose of life saving.
- Recreational use of beaches and surf breaks is formally acknowledged and takes precedence over other uses within strategic and statutory land use planning decisions.
- A series of managed reserves that are extensive, representative and linked wherever possible.
- Adequate resourcing for agencies charged with reserve management to;
 - Ensure maintenance and support enhancement of native flora and fauna;
 - Provide facilities for environmentally and culturally responsible use of natural areas;
 - Partner with landholders and other land managers to coordinate biodiversity conservation;
 - Enforce relevant Government legislation and regulation.