



## **National Campaign Policy on Mining and Dredging**

### **Terrestrial Sand Mining**

Large stretches of Australia's coastal lands and dunes are or have been mined for mineral sands. This has resulted in extensive clearing and fragmentation of coastal vegetation communities, weed infestation and related impacts on fauna and coastal processes. Disturbance of important Aboriginal cultural landscapes has also occurred. In order to minimise environmental impacts from terrestrial sand mining and maximize the limited coastal lands that are available for environmentally and culturally responsible public recreation, Surfrider Foundation Australia advocates the following:

- No further expansion of areas being exploited for mineral sands beyond those currently in operation
- Existing sand mining operations should be closely monitored and environmental management and rehabilitation measures heavily enforced
- Government levies on sand mining operators to provide funds directly for expensive coastal management initiatives such as resumption of private lands

### **Offshore Sand Mining**

Surfrider Foundation Australia strongly opposes any exploration or exploitation of offshore sand sources for the purpose of supplying commercial quantities of building materials. While it is conceivable that offshore extraction could provide an important source of sand for future coastal nourishment campaigns, this should not be approved until comprehensive and long-term investigations conclusively show that there is no adverse effect on the ecological, aesthetic or surfing values of a coastline.

### **Dredging**

Surfrider Foundation is generally not in favour of dredging as it can have adverse impacts on water



quality and estuarine/marine ecosystems, and lead to unexpected changes in the movement and accumulation of sediment thereby altering the nature and quality of surf breaks.

Surfrider Foundation Australia aims to protect the natural and surfing environment from any actual or potential impacts from dredging activities. With the prospect of rising sea levels Surfrider understands that offshore deposits of sand may require to be dredged to recharge public beaches but this should occur only once a transparent and scientifically rigorous process has been undertaken.

### **Coal Seam Gas Exploration and Exploitation in the Coastal Zone**

Surfrider Foundation holds grave concerns over techniques currently in use to “explore for Coal Seam Gas reserves in the coastal zone known as ‘chemical fracturing’ or ‘fracking.’” Surfrider suspects that the damage done to groundwater sources by such ‘exploration’ may not differ from the exploitation of such gas reserves by ‘fracking.’

In light of these concerns Surfrider Foundation Australia advocates the following:

- Government bodies charged with managing the coastal zone to ensure comprehensive baseline testing of all water bodies within a 7km radius of any proposed CSG well before the exploration phase is begun
- And that the results of such tests are made available to the public before any drilling/fracking can commence.