

Sunday, 5 June 2016

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRST FOR SURF ZONES RECOGNITION**

Surf zones will be recognised in planning and coastal management for the first time as part of the NSW Government's coastal reforms.

Planning Minister Rob Stokes welcomed the passage of the Coastal Management Bill through the NSW Parliament, saying it will be the first legislation in Australia to specifically recognise the use of the surf zone in a land-use planning context.

"The saltwater economy is a vital part of our way of life, and we want to ensure we have a healthy coast with thriving, resilient communities now and into the future," Mr Stokes said.

"The surf zone is not just a playground for surfers, swimmers and fishers, but an integral part of our coast's social, economic and environmental value.

"The new Act will improve coastal management in NSW, which until now has been piecemeal and unstructured, and will integrate more effectively with existing local government planning and management processes."

**Chair of Surfrider Foundation Australia, Brendan Frawley, welcomed the recognition of the surf zone in the new legislation.**

**"This legislation clearly acknowledges the importance of protecting our surf zone as a vital community, environmental and tourism asset," Mr Frawley said.**

**" Surfrider will continue work with the State and local governments in addressing the opportunities and challenges facing the coast delighted that the importance of surf has been recognized in law"**

The new Coastal Management Act will not commence until consultation on the Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy and associated mapping is complete, ensuring feedback from the community and stakeholders is fully considered.

**For more information visit:** [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastreforms.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastreforms.htm)

**MEDIA: Hannah Dunn | Minister Stokes | 0438 651 403**