

Appeal to the Hon Craig Knowles for a rezoning moratorium on the regional coast of NSW from the following 130 regional coastal and peak environment organizations: 4 March 2005

Angels Beach Dunecare & Reafforestation Grp Inc
Assoc. for Environmental Education - Central Coast
Assoc. for Illuka Residents - AIR Inc.
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Conservation Foundation - Central Coast
Australian Conservation Foundation - Shoalhaven
Avoca Beach Community Assoc Inc
Ballina Environment Society Inc
Bega Environment Network
Bellingen Environment Centre
Bendalong & Districts Environmental Assoc
Big Scrub Environment Centre
Bonny Hills Progress Association
Broadwater Action Group
Broadwater Community Dunecare
Brunkerville Residents Action Group
Budjong Creek Landcare Group
Byron Environment Centre
Byron Environment and Conservation Organisation
Caldera Environment Centre
Camden Haven Protection Society
Catherine Hill Bay Progress Assoc.& Dunecare Inc.
Cavanbah Action Group
Central Coast Community and Environment Network
Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition Inc.
Clarence Wetland Network
Coastcare Hunter-Central Rivers Region
The Coastwatchers Assoc Inc
Collins Creek Bushcare Group
Colong Foundation for Wilderness
Conservation Ecologists Assoc.
Conservation of North Ocean Shores
Coolgardie Scrub Conservation Group
Corindi Beach Residents Group
Crescent Head Residents and Ratepayers Assoc.
Dudley Progress Assoc. Inc.
East Ballina Landcare Inc.
Eco Practical Activists Network
Econetwork - Port Stephens Inc.
Environmentally Sensitive Development Assoc. Inc
Environment Watch Inc
Evans Head & District Water Committee
Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome Committee
Fox Road Landcare
Friends of Cudgen Lake
Friends of Durras
Friends of the Koala Inc
Friends of Narrawallee
Friends of South West Rocks Inc.
Friends for Stanwell Park
Friends of Tumblebee
Gloucester Environment Group
Great Lakes Environment Assoc. Inc.
Green Corridor Coalition
Illawarra Escarpment Coalition
Healthy Cities Illawarra
Humane Society International
Hungry Head Protection Group
Hunter Community and Environment Centre
Hunter Environment Lobby
Jervis Bay Regional Alliance
Jetty Action Group
Kingscliff Ratepayers and Residents Assoc

Lake Cathie Progress Assoc.
Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park Cttee
Lake Wollumboola Protection Assoc Inc
LennoxCare
Long Beach Area Improvement Group
The Manning Group
Milton Mirror
Moonee Action Group
Mulbring Valley Landcare Group
Myall Koala and Environmental Support Group
Nambucca Valley Conservation Assoc
National Parks Association - Far North Coast
National Parks Association - Three Valleys
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
Newcastle Residents Group Inc.
North Coast Environment Council
North East Forest Alliance
Northern Illawarra Residents Action Group
Ocean Watch Australia Inc.
Pacific Palms Community Assoc.
Parks and Playground Movement Inc.
Paxton Ellalong Community Group
Pelican/Blacksmiths Progress Assoc.
Pindimar-Bundebah Community Assoc
Port Macquarie Conservation Society
Redhead Residents Action Group
Red Rock Preservation Assoc
Residents Action Group (Hastings)
Rosebank Community Inc
Rosebank Wild Koala Colonies
Sandon Point Bushcare Group
Sandy Hearns Action Group
Save Our Lakes And Heritage Committee

Scotts Head Protection Group
Shortland/Birmingham Gardens/Sandgate Community Forum
Slacky Creek Bushcare Group
South Golden Beach Progress Assoc.
South West Rocks Ratepayers and Citizens Assoc
Stanwell Tops Residents Awareness Assoc
Surfrider Foundation - Byron Bay
Surfrider Foundation - Tweed/Gold Coast
Survey Street Action Group
Swanhaven Progress Association
Tathra River Estate Owners and Residents Assoc.
Terrigal Area Residents Assoc.
Thirroul Action Group
Total Environment Centre
Tuross Lakes Preservation Group Inc
Tweed District Residents & Ratepayers Assoc.
Tweed Heads Environment Group Inc.
Tweed Landcare Inc.
Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers
United Residents Group - Emerald
United Residents Group for the Environment of Lake Macquarie
Valla Coastal Protection Group Inc.
Valley Watch Inc
Wadalba Wildlife Corridor Restoration Group
Wallarrah Peninsula Alliance
Water Action to Encourage Recreation Inc
The Wetlands Centre
Whartons Creek Bushcare Group
Woy Woy Environment Centre
Wyang Shire Ratepayers and Residents Assoc.
Wyang Terrestrial Orchid Research

4 March 2005

The Hon Craig Knowles
Minister for Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources
Level 33, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, Sydney 2000

Dear Mr Knowles

Request for a rezoning moratorium on regional NSW coast

The above peak and NSW regional coastal based environment, community, heritage and residents organizations call for a moratorium on rezoning for increased development on the coast of NSW, while the regional strategic planning process is underway. We request that this moratorium remain in place until suitable regional strategic plans have been completed for the Far North Coast, Mid North Coast, Lower Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra and the South Coast. The moratorium should not apply to rezonings that will improve or increase environmental protection outcomes during this period as the purpose for this request is to prevent further loss of land to inappropriate development before there is opportunity to assess it for the regional strategies over the next two years.

There is little point in DIPNR undertaking regional strategic plans along the coast of NSW while local councils are able to continue rezoning for further development during this time. There are many areas that are earmarked for urban development in local strategies (many of which are of a speculative and environmentally damaging nature) that are likely to be put forward for review within the times allocated for the strategy process. There are also many continued instances of developers requesting spot rezonings – making the need for a moratorium vital.

There is also no need for further rezoning for development at this stage as all coastal regions contain ample land that is either already zoned or approved for development but yet to be taken up. This land alone would cater for predicted population growth for many years. The purpose of the regional strategies is to ensure that any further growth is planned sustainably rather than allowing a continued ad hoc sprawl style approach that ignores the natural environment, biodiversity, natural resources, infrastructure and residential amenity. Despite alarmist and ambit claim population growth figures cited by the development industry to argue for further development rezoning in these coastal regions, in particular on greenfield sites, the facts point to a need for caution and proper assessment.

As the regional strategic planning process involves a complex assessment of all components of the natural environment, as well as infrastructure needs, social needs and planning where population growth will go and other environmental, social and economic components, it is vital that high conservation value or other significant land is not lost to development during the process. If rezoning for development continues apace while the strategies are underway, it would also undermine any public confidence in them.

Yours sincerely (on behalf of the above groups)

Jeff Angel
Director
Total Environment Centre

Cate Faehrmann
Director
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Cc: Premier Bob Carr; Jennifer Westacott – DG – DIPNR; Professor Bruce Thom; DIPNR – Far North Coast; DIPNR – Hunter; DIPNR – Central Coast; DIPNR – South Coast