



30 November 2005

PRESS RELEASE

Better infrastructure management needed for NSW coast

A new Coastal Cabinet Sub-Committee and Report Cards on the performance of Regional Strategies have been recommended by the NSW Standing Committee on Public Works in a report released today. The "*Report on Infrastructure Provision in Coastal Growth Areas*" is a culmination of a nine month inquiry by the Public Works Committee.

The arrival of 'seachangers' to coastal communities brings with it a higher expectation of infrastructure and service levels. However while the surge of 'seachange' residents has created new infrastructure demands, this is exacerbated by pre-existing infrastructure deficiencies in coastal areas.

The Committee's report provides a snapshot of critical infrastructure issues including:

- the pressing demands for services needed by concentrated aged communities in coastal areas;
- the tension between preservation of environmental qualities of the coast and the desire for development;
- the lack of employment diversity for economic growth in coastal areas; and,
- infrastructure resourcing problems being faced by coastal councils.

The Committee sees that the management of 'seachange' and infrastructure pressures in coastal NSW can be achieved through clearer targets for coastal development, along with measurement of, and accountability for meeting those targets.

The Committee proposes a new Coastal Management Policy framework. The Committee recommends the linking of the new Regional Strategies, currently being prepared by the NSW Department of Planning, with the accountability mechanism of a Coastal Cabinet Sub-Committee (CSC). Furthermore the Committee recommends public reporting by this Coastal CSC on the progress of targets in each regional plan through an annual Regional Report Card.

The Committee believes that the combination of monitoring by the Cabinet Sub Committee and public accountability imposed via the Regional Report Card will make the Regional Strategies a far more effective tool than previous Strategies:

I believe that the continued scrutiny and revision of coastal Regional Strategies proposed in this report will improve the delivery of required infrastructure in coastal regions and ensure that each level of government is held accountable. " said Mr Greene MP.

The Committee report was tabled in the NSW Parliament today. Copies are available online from the Committee's web site at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ or ph. 9230 3054. For further information please contact: Kevin Greene MP, Committee Chairman, ph. 9580 9349, or mob. 0407 291 872.