



# Caldera Environment Centre Inc.

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NSW Department of Planning

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## **Draft Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) and Draft Coastal Mapping.**

Caldera Environment Centre (CEC) has been established in Tweed Shire for the past 25 years to promote the protection of the environment. Tweed Shire has a highly diverse coastal area which over the past years have been the subject of CEC campaigns. CEC forwarded a previous submission to the **NSW Coastal Reforms**.

### **Draft Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)**

The draft Coastal Management SEPP within the four management zones does not provide the level of protection in the previous SEPPs 14 (Coastal Wetland), 26 (Littoral Rainforest) and 71 (Coastal Protection). A major concern is that the concurrence provisions have been removed for SEPP 14 and 26. There is no sound reasoning for this change and the outcome will be detrimental to the environment.

Wildlife corridor and threatened species, populations and endangered ecological communities considerations within the current SEPP 71 have not been included in the new SEPP.

CEC considers that the current SEPPs have provided sound protection of the coastal environment. SEPP 14 and 26 have worked extremely well and there is no reason why should they be changed or weakened. These coastal communities are to be valued and retained. In our shire (Tweed) and nearby Byron they have come under significant development pressure. The classification as SEPP has provided protection from development proposals. Many, particularly the littoral rainforest are only small remnants often surrounded by residential areas. Legislation must ensure that these remnants are not reduced or impacted but instead restored and protected in good condition.

CEC supports the declaration of development in the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest as designated development, though should be extended for development in areas with rural zonings in proximity areas.



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### Draft Coastal Mapping

The mapping of the SEPP 14 and 26 and environmental areas requires the revision of the current maps to a standard that ensures that all these areas are included. As required the input of Council is recommended and in Tweed Shire we are fortunate that the Council has the resources and expertise to undertake this task. Tweed has had detailed coastal mapping since the late 1990's which has formed the basis of the current review.

Unfortunately this is not the case for all Councils and there should be funds available to ensure that all Councils have the capacity to review the mapping and amend as required.

There have often been significant changes in the boundaries of both Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforest. Examples of changes include the expansion of Littoral Rainforest on the Tweed Coast, in particular at Fingal and Wooyung. Both sites have areas of littoral rainforest which has expanded due to restoration of the adjoining native vegetation. The adjoining areas were previously overrun with coastal weeds. Weeds have been controlled by Council contractors and Dunecare groups. The areas have often regenerated naturally or been enhanced by appropriate coastal plantings.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards

Rhonda James  
Co-ordinator