



## Newsletter July 2012

### COASTWATCHERS QUARTERLY MEETING Saturday 28 July 2012 at 2pm Tomakin Hall

Help us develop an effective campaign for the Eurobodalla Council Election so that the views and experience of everyone standing in the election be made easily accessible to voters.

**Guest speakers:** Professor Donald and Dr Veronica de Raadt

Come along and contribute ideas

(See separate item for more details)

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the last eighteen months or so your Committee has often found it difficult to find good news for the environment from state government decisions, and when we do we know they may be watered down or changed later on.

Development of the Draft Eurobodalla LEP is a prime example. I have just received news, 3 years after the process was started, that the Minister for Planning has signed off the new version.

He has approved an environmental plan that has removed the E3 Environmental Protection zones

but left in the environmental overlays "**for the time being**" (bold and underlined in his media release). However, he adds that amendments to these issues may be made later after considering the report from the upcoming Rural Lands Strategy Review.

From further comments it is obvious that the Minister has received a variety messages from members of the Eurobodalla community. I believe hearing individually from many of you who support the overlays and want our natural environment protected has influenced his decision.

**Thank you all for a job well done.**

Unfortunately we cannot rest on our laurels as the threat to our natural environment continues. Developer and mining companies are currently lobbying to reduce environmental protection and public participation in the NSW state planning system so that development approvals can be fast tracked. We are risking our health and well being if development pollutes our land, air and water. To avoid this, genuine community participation and robust and independent environmental assessment and regulation is needed.

All of us need to speak up individually to defend the environmental protections and community rights that that have been hard won. If we don't then developers and mining companies will probably get their way.

*Sheila Monahan*

### COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 8 SEPTEMBER 2012

For a while now our local media has featured community discontent with decisions made by both Councillors and staff of Eurobodalla Shire Council. It has been the experience of your committee that whatever else we may think about Council staff, many have professional expertise in their respective areas and work extremely hard. The views of the residents, ratepayers and others should guide the decisions made by Councillors and Council management, but they must be clearly based on sound advice and information (an uninformed 'majority' view is not always the best one).

The Local Government elections to be held on Saturday 8 September, afford an opportunity to review the performance of current Councillors and to consider the credentials of those standing for Council for the first time. We need well informed Councillors that are prepared to research issues before making important decisions. Unless Councillors take their duties seriously and read and understand the information given to them they can hardly set sound policy or guide the employees. To this end it is vital that the views and experience of everyone standing in the election be made easily accessible to voters.

Eurobodalla Shire Council is one of only 4 councils in NSW who have no female Councillors even though at the last election the percentage of women candidates (36%) was higher than the state average. The average number of females elected to each council (outside of Sydney) was 2.6 compared to 7.2 males. Clearly a large proportion of the Eurobodalla community are currently unrepresented on our council.

From the Coastwatchers Association perspective, there are valid connections between the well-being of both the local and wider environment and a healthy sustainable community. During the election campaign this needs to be given prominence alongside the social and economic focus upon which community discussion always seems to fall.

*Sheila Monahan*

## **EUROBODALLA KOALAS PROJECT UPDATE**

At this mid-year stage, the volunteer Eurobodalla Koalas project is on track to achieve its priority goals for 2012, despite the disappointment of missing out on both a NSW Environmental Trust Research Seeding Grant and a Commonwealth Biodiversity Fund Grant. The three priorities are: (i) surveys in the field; (ii) constructing a Shire-wide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) digital map of potential habitat; and, (iii) cross referencing these elements in a theoretical model mediated by contemporary research literature. In the light of possible localized extinction, the longer-term purpose is to check whether the Eurobodalla's landscape would sustain a low density koala population again, if a recovery plan was implemented. By the end of 2012 we would like to use our findings as a basis for negotiating a major interagency funding application, to support several years of intensive future research work including the design of the recovery plan.



Eleven of this year's planned fifteen plot surveys were completed in Autumn. Nine of these were around Tinpot, chosen for its proximity to the 2011 NPWS surveys that found evidence of between five and fifteen critically endangered koalas using Kooraban National Park in the Sam's Ridge area. The other two were at Gulph Creek (above Nerrigundah) and Big Belimbla Creek, chosen for their relationship to one of the Eurobodalla's last two koala sightings in 2009. No clear evidence of koalas has been found at any of these plots, but the data gathered on eucalypt species and other potential habitat parameters has been immensely valuable. Two more plots are to be surveyed at Tinpot in Spring, followed by plots at Turlinjah, Runnyford Road, East Lynne and possibly Merricumbene, chosen for their importance to habitat connectivity, and because they relate to historical koala records and suitable extant eucalypt species. Many thanks are owed to the small, intrepid band of volunteers who've braved the ticks, snakes and remote roads, bringing their own four-wheel-drives to help achieve this result. Agencies such as the University of Canberra Applied Science Faculty, Forests NSW, Eurobodalla Shire Council and the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens have provided valuable advice.

Work has begun on the GIS map. Using resources from the Coastwatchers tax-deductible Environment Fund, a laptop computer and an *ArcGIS10* software licence (under the *ESRI Not for Profit Organisations Program*) have been placed with GIS expert volunteer, Dr David Bulman. Dave is working from home using digital files kindly supplied by the Office of Environment and Heritage, and with assistance from the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. Dave has overlaid the plot survey points on a vegetation type map, created an initial attribute table to permit analysis and is now developing the GIS model to accommodate other data layers and address the project's underlying research questions.

The literature search is almost complete, and has been incorporated in a draft pilot study report. This draft also contains our detailed theoretical model and is being peer-reviewed by academics and practitioners such as Kahli Beissner (UC), Dr Adrienne Grant (USyd) and Dr Sophie Hall-Aspland (UTas). When the surveys and GIS components are done, findings will be analysed. The final report is expected to be published by Coastwatchers in January 2013, and will provide a sound scientific platform for future advocacy and funding applications.

Those who might enjoy participating in any aspect of the volunteer Eurobodalla Koalas project should contact Coordinator Keith Joliffe on mobile 0427 546 156. Keith himself has to leave the Eurobodalla before too long, so anyone interested in the overall project management role is also being sought.

*Keith Joliffe*

## **EUROBODALLA RURAL LANDS STRATEGY**

The preparation of our Rural Lands Strategy has begun with Council setting up a Steering Committee that will guide a strategic review of these lands. The strategy aims to set a clear vision and policy framework for all rural land in the Eurobodalla Shire, including the areas deferred from the 2011 Local Environmental Plan.

Council; the Department of Planning and Infrastructure; Department of Primary Industry and the Office of Environment and Heritage will be represented. Council is also seeking seven community representatives

who have to be a resident or ratepayer, have a background in rural land use or planning, links with local organisations or groups and an ability to represent the general interests of the district in which they reside.

Once established the Steering Committee will work with Council to develop the Terms of Reference and then engage with the broader community to ensure that the "...Rural Lands Strategy is developed in a comprehensive and inclusive way." It will be at this stage that Coastwatchers' members should make sure they contribute to the discussion.

*Sheila Monahan*

## **COASTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CMAC) UPDATE JULY 2012**

At the recent meeting of CMAC Umwelt (Australia) provided the results of the Beach User Survey conducted over the summer months and a progress report on the Batemans Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan.

### **Beach User Survey**

The user survey was designed to provide guidelines for Council and other partners to best manage coastal zone issues over the next 10 years, including risks to public safety and built assets, pressure on coastal ecosystems and community use and enjoyment of the coastal zone.

Most respondents indicated they highly valued the beach, the coast and the marine environment and stressed the importance of keeping the beach as natural as possible, limiting development and retaining and sustaining wide-open spaces and natural habitats. Other issues considered as important, were the maintenance of coastal infrastructure and facilities, the importance of tourism to the local economy and management of hazard risks.

Survey respondents were mainly local residents, but some were regular visitors. The survey results were heavily influenced by Long Beach users, who among other things, believed that Landcare activities in regard to dune vegetation, required better and more consistent management. Oddly most other respondents were very happy with Landcare and supported their efforts in dune management.



*June erosion at Long Beach removed some of the reserve and damaged the road.*

### **Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)**

A progress report on the CZMP summarised the tasks involved, including site inspections, coastal erosion studies, tidal inundation zones, coastal inundation zones and management options. Inspection of sites within the Bay looked at the condition of sea walls and their ability to cope with future hazard risks and considered management options to address identified problems.

The CZMP will provide an understanding of coastal zone risks and coastal process hazards for the next century and an opportunity to set clear strategic direction for the Batemans Bay coastline to help Council guide its community through the expected changes. The Plan will have the capacity to significantly reduce the long-term risks to residents and to Council, and provide a strategic framework for the longer-term adaptive management of coastal issues.

### **Draft Emergency Action Subplan**

Coastwatchers made a submission to the recent Draft Emergency Action Subplan (DEAS) prepared by Umwelt for Wharf Road Surfside, one of the Eurobodalla's coastal erosion "hot spots".

This location has been of particular concern to Coastwatchers over many years due to erosion and inundation hazards that have impacted Wharf Road during major storm events. Various unapproved works have been erected there but are inadequate to prevent major erosion and inundation.

The recent southeast low, which coincided with a very high tide, caused substantial erosion and inundation to Wharf Road, but future impacts will be even greater when sea level rise is a contributing factor.

The SMEC maps of immediate coastal erosion hazard areas and immediate coastal inundation hazard areas accompanying the 2011 Eurobodalla Scoping Study show the extent of increasing hazards and the associated risks at Wharf Road and highlight the inadequacy of the 2009 BMT WBM Hazard Management Plan to address the risks. The maps clearly show the need for an urgent update to address an essential emergency response in accordance with NSW legislative requirements.

A schedule of actions to be undertaken in the event of an emergency flood or erosion event is detailed in the Plan. A Summary Action Table clearly specifies the actions and responsibilities of organizations for pre-storm preparation and during an emergency storm event.

Coastwatchers considers the Draft Subplan is well formulated and will serve as an effective interim emergency response for Wharf Road until Council adopts the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

The next meeting of the Coastal Management Advisory Committee will be in August when a preliminary draft of the CZMP will be available for comment.

*Reina Hill*



### **STORM EROSION**

Several years ago, when Council was planning the waterfront improvements at Batemans Bay, Coastwatchers insisted that the rock wall needed to be higher to cope with current storm hazards, let alone future ones. This was not done and the storm in early June (one as severe is likely to occur about every 8 years according to the Bureau of Meteorology) damaged the walkway and other areas around the Bay.

*Waves at Starfish Deli, Batemans Bay*

### **COUNCIL'S GREENHOUSE (LACK OF) ACTION PLAN**

While we acknowledge that Council has made some progress in implementing the previous Greenhouse Action Plan (GAP) the results have been disappointing. The initial corporate target was to reduce emissions by 25% and this was raised to 50% when Council endorsed the 50/50 targets of Clean Energy for Eternity.

The Draft GAP acknowledges that science says the minimum reduction we need to achieve by 2020 is 25% of the **1990** baseline emissions. However, Council's plans are based on 2005/06 emissions, and even that lower target was not reached. The 2011-12 emissions inventory is only 0.2% lower than the 2005-06 baseline – a very unimpressive result! If the average of emissions for the years 2005-06 to 2011-12 was used the result would be even worse.

The GAP does not seem to really commit the Shire to real and effective progress on emissions reduction. Council seems to be 'going through the motions only and not trying to effectively lead the community or give it any real direction. Perhaps the Carbon Pollution Tax will spur more action.

*Jenny Edwards*

### **WE ARE WARMING THE OCEAN**

Tasmanian scientist, Dr John Church, was among the leading climate researchers who recently confirmed that the world's oceans have warmed and humans are the main cause. He said there was simply no way the upper layers of every ocean in the world could have warmed by more than 0.1°C through natural causes alone. According to a leading oceanographer, also on the international research team, 90% of the temperature change stored in the whole of the Earth's system is stored in the ocean, so global warming is really an ocean warming problem.

Warmer water might seem like good news to swimmers, but even slight rises in water temperature lead to more water vapour in the atmosphere, more intense storms and cyclones, more melting of polar ice and changes to ocean circulation patterns.

*Jenny Edwards*

### **THANKS FROM NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL NSW**

The Carbon Pollution Tax has arrived and now Australia can start making some real progress towards a clean energy economy. Putting a price on pollution will drive unprecedented investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions and creating new employment opportunities.

When NCC travelled around NSW the message they heard at their community forums was clear and powerful: energy from the sun and wind delivers real benefits for regional communities and, unlike coal and coal seam gas, is ready to meet our energy needs without polluting our air, water and land.

This historic outcome is a testament to the dedication of hundreds of thousands of people, like you, who have worked long and hard to secure real action on climate change. There is a long road ahead, with many challenges along the way, but this is a day to reflect on the positive change that we can achieve, standing together for a sustainable future.

**Thank you for raising your voice in support of action on climate change.**

For more information, please visit [100percentready.org.au](http://100percentready.org.au)

## HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS – a lose-lose-lose decision

It is pretty certain that most people who voted for the Coalition government in NSW did not expect them to trash National Parks but that is what is happening.

The Shooters and Fishers Party managed to coerce the NSW government into permitting recreational hunters in national parks in exchange for supporting the government's bill to privatise electricity generation. Not only did the Premier break his pre-election promise not to allow hunting in national parks, we have ended up with a lose-lose-lose situation.

Recreational hunting has been proven to be counter-productive in controlling feral animals; properly designed professional programs are needed. This move will only endanger the safety of other park users and national park staff. Privatising coal fired electricity generation reduces the opportunity to limit greenhouse gas emissions and diverts profits from the public purse.

The laws passed are even worse than predicted. The legislation simply lists 48 national parks and reserves where shooting cannot occur. Most of these are near major population centres. All the parks and Nature Reserves in our area have been opened to hunters.



The Act also set aside protections on a range of Australian native animals including Little Corellas, Galahs and Black Swans.

Amendments to the legislation aimed at ensuring that hunters in national parks will be 'effectively supervised and regulated' were not passed. No wonder National Park rangers are objecting. They will be the ones who have to confront the armed shooters.

The decision to allow shooting in national parks has triggered ongoing protests around the state. If you haven't already done so please tell the Premier and Minister Parker that you want the act repealed.Y

You can take a photo of yourself, ideally in one of our national parks or nature reserves, holding a sign like the one in the photo of Greens Cate Faehrmann, who is helping organise a protest campaign. Then send your photos to [cate.faehrmann@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cate.faehrmann@parliament.nsw.gov.au), share them on Facebook and Twitter (#dontshoot), and the Greens will use them to build the campaign.

*Jenny Edwards*

## HUNTING IS NOT THE ONLY THREAT TO OUR PARKS

Coastwatchers Association has received very distressing news about the future of National Parks. If these management changes come into operation they will undermine thousands of hours of conservation work over nearly two decades that have achieved significant environmental outcomes.

The threats include:

- Allowing more tourism/resort accommodation inside parks
- a policy promoting an Adventure Mountain Trail Bike Racing circuit in National Parks across the state
- new moves to open parks and wilderness areas to horse riding, allowing horse riders to take guns to "shoot feral animals" in the parks, and letting them take horse trucks into very remote areas.
- a push to open all tracks in National Parks to 4WDs and recreational motor bikes
- another NPWS restructure and continued decline in funds and resources for management.
- NPWS field officers may no longer need a degree in natural resource management - opening the way for people from the Game Council to police national parks.
- the Shooters and Fishers Party led "inquiry" into the management of public lands - they and the Nationals want logging, grazing, and exploration for and mining of gas/minerals in National Parks

## CAULERPA ON THE WANE?

The good news is that there has been a noticeable decline in the populations of the pest seaweed *Caulerpa taxifolia* (Caulerpa) in Durras Lake and other inlets over recent years. The bad news is that the sea grass *Zostera* has also been declining and our lakes are potentially very vulnerable to reinvasion by Caulerpa being transported in from infestations further north.

A key message for the local community is to encourage waterway users to continue to be vigilant to help minimise the spread of Caulerpa. Waterway users should avoid Caulerpa-affected areas and dispose of any fragments that may get caught up in all types of fishing or boating gear by placing them in a plastic bag and putting them in the bin. After removing all visible fragments it's advisable to wash gear using freshwater before moving to another estuary.

Recent surveys undertaken by DPI Aquatic Ecosystems Research in several south coast estuaries (St Georges Basin, Durras Lake, Burrill Lake, Lake Conjola, Batemans Bay and Narrawallee Inlet) have found that the abundance of Caulerpa has been declining.

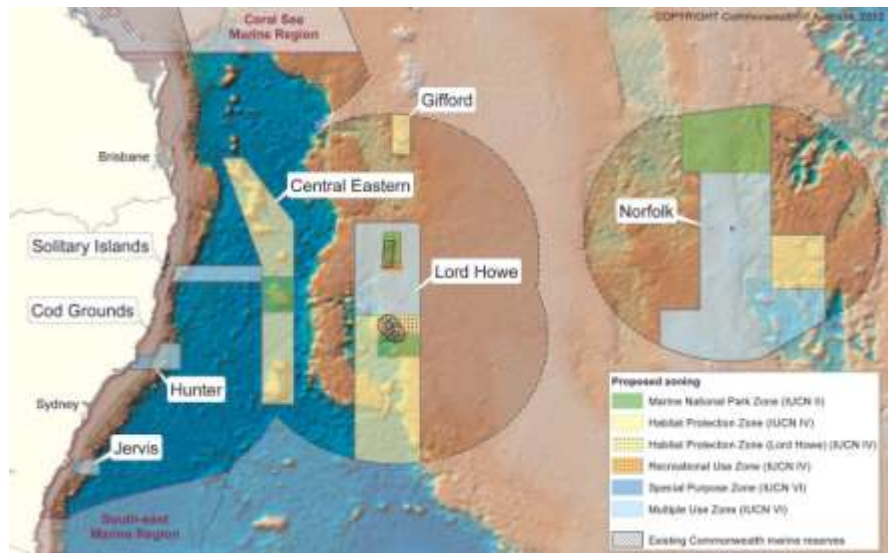
This recent decline in Caulerpa may be as a natural result of decreased salinity as a result of major rainfall events. However, DPI does not consider the Caulerpa to be 'eradicated' as in most of these estuaries very little active control work has been undertaken, instead it is more of a natural decline in abundance. A water body can only be considered Caulerpa-free based on comprehensive Caulerpa surveys of the entire water body including 3 consecutive years of surveillance data.

## GOOD NEWS ON COMMONWEALTH MARINE PARKS

The decision of the Federal Minister for Environment to establish a world leading marine reserve system was welcomed by all those who have fought so hard to improve marine protection. Thank you to everyone who voiced their support prior to the announcement. Please let the government know that you approve of this decision.

In deep waters off NSW four new marine sanctuaries will be declared (green on the map). They will protect unique marine features like the Derwent Hunter seamount and larger areas around Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.

These protections are a significant step, but some important marine areas have been left vulnerable to oil and gas development and damaging fishing methods. There is still work to be done to secure stronger protections for important marine areas on the continental shelf of New South Wales. We look forward to your input and support as we continue our efforts to protect our extraordinary marine life.



PLEASE TELL MINISTER TONY BURKE THAT YOU SUPPORT THE RESERVES AND ASK HIM NOT TO WEAKEN THE PROPOSALS.

1. **Email** your comments with any additional information to [proclamationcomments@environment.gov.au](mailto:proclamationcomments@environment.gov.au)
2. **Post** your comments with any additional information free of charge to:  
Commonwealth Marine Reserves Proclamation Comments  
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities  
Reply Paid 787  
Canberra ACT 2601
3. Information on the final Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network proposal can be found at [www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves](http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves)

## PLANTING DAY ALONG THE SHORELINE OF DURRAS LAKE



Extensive plantings of shrubs were planted along the shoreline of Durras Lake by volunteers and a bush regeneration contractor in June. The plants used will grow to no more than one metre high and will help stabilise the nearby bank to reduce erosion and subsequent siltation. The health and indeed survival of the diversity of Durras Lake ecosystems is much dependent on the maintenance of riparian vegetation in its catchment.

In 1986, Professorial Fellow John Chappell, Head of the Australian National University's Department of Biogeography and Geomorphology, completed a review of the coastal lakes of the South Coast between Durras and the Victorian border. He concluded that of

the 59 lakes examined, many had already been affected by forest clearing and settlement, to such an extent, that there was no case for protection on usual conservation grounds. Durras Lake was the only lake of the set of lakes in the large, slow turnover class which was sufficiently undamaged to warrant special protection. On 17 November, 1986 he recommended to the NSW Environment and Planning that Durras Lake be identified for preservation on the grounds of being the last of its kind. A glimpse of what a large coastal waterway would have looked like before the arrival of Europeans.

*John Perkins*

## SUGGESTIONS FOR CUTTING YOUR ENERGY BILLS

Recently the ABC website featured suggestions by Tanya Ha of 30 easy ways to cut your energy bills. Many of the tips are common sense but a few of the less frequently mentioned ones are:

- "Clean the lint filter in washing machines, dryers, and heating and cooling equipment.
- Battery chargers can use standby power even when not plugged into the device they charge. Turn them off at the wall. This includes mobile phone, power tool and battery rechargers.
- You've swapped your old incandescent bulbs for more efficient lights? Now, it's time to replace energy-hungry halogen downlights. Mains voltage (GU10 base fitting) 50 Watt halogens can be replaced with 11-watt compact fluorescent 'micro' downlights. Low-voltage (MR16 base) 50-watt halogens can be replaced with 20 Watt infrared coated (IRC) halogens or three Watt LED downlights. Note that 'low voltage' does not mean 'low energy'.
- Buy efficient whitegoods when the time comes to replace them. The Energy Rating website [www.energyrating.gov.au](http://www.energyrating.gov.au) has a useful search tool that estimates running costs. For example, one 4-star family fridge costs only about half as much to run as a similar sized 1.5-star machine.
- Finally, remember that every product you see in the shops has needed energy, water and material resources to be produced and has a carbon cost. We can cut our eco-footprints, save money and avoid some of the carbon tax by simply buying and wasting less stuff."

Do you have some energy saving suggestions to share with other Coastwatchers?

## FISHING TACKLE DEBRIS - 'reel it in'

Are you someone who likes to walk along our beautiful beaches or explore one of our many rock platforms? Maybe you like to wet a line from the breakwall or from your local jetty. If so, perhaps you might like to assist Council's environment team with their mission. They would like to remove discarded fishing line, hooks, lures and sinkers from along our coast.



Australian Seabird Rescue estimates that 94.04% of pelicans rescued suffer from fishing tackle hooking or entanglement. Litter and other marine debris causing damage to marine wildlife is a serious issue. Fishing line discarded from boats, beaches, jetties or anywhere else can remain in the aquatic environment for very long periods of time continuing to kill or injure marine and bird life.

The mission is to transform the discarded fishing tackle into a piece of art.

If you are interested in assisting with this activity please contact Councils Environment Education Officer, Bernadette Davis at [Bernadette.davis@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bernadette.davis@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au) or phone 02 44741037.

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN (CAP)

Until the end of July 2012 you have a chance to input what you value into the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA) Catchment Action Plan (CAP). The whole community consultation process extends until 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012. The Southern Rivers CAP is important as it will guide community and government investment in the protection of coastal natural resources in our region for the period 2013-23.

To let SRCMA know what landscapes and places are important to you, you can complete the on-line values survey at: <http://yoursaysouthernriverscma.com.au/> before the end of this month.

There will also be other opportunities for community contribution:

Stage of consultation	Period
Values Survey	May - July 2012
Stakeholder meetings and workshops	June - September 2012
On-line community forum	July - August 2012
Draft CAP available for community comment	November 2012
Final CAP must be submitted to Minister	February 2013

There are three stakeholder workshops coming up in August, these are for state government agency, local government and community partner organisations and will focus on describing the current state of natural resources across our region and describing what a desirable future state would look like. Another set of stakeholder workshops will follow in September to draft up the priorities for action, based on an analysis of the changes (both negative and positive) that are impacting on our landscapes.

The on-line community forum will commence by the end of July. SRCMA have not set a final date for the forum at this stage, but will advise all those who have registered on the Your Say site of these dates.

You can also call your nearest CMA office at any time to seek more information on the update process and find out about any local opportunities to get involved.

## NSW NATIONAL PARK INQUIRY Comments due by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012**

A parliamentary inquiry has been set up to examine the state's national parks and conservation areas and its recommendations could result in outcomes which lessen the protection of the plants and animals in our National Parks..

The Chair of the inquiry, Robert Brown, president of the Shooters and Fishers Party, has lobbied the government not to create more national parks or marine parks and has successfully sought approval for recreational hunting in national parks. The rest of the inquiry group are 3 Coalition, 2 Labor and 1 Green.

**People who care about national parks need to contact the Premier and their local State Government members of parliament and let them know national parks are precious and need to be protected from logging, mining, grazing and shooting.**

**Making a submission** by writing or sending an email in addition, is also important. This is a straightforward process and a very effective way of letting the committee know your views. The Terms of Reference are at <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/18B4C6B001E0D367CA2579E9000215C2>

**Pointers on writing a submission** are on the next page of this newsletter and at: [http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/web/common.nsf/key/CommitteesLCSubmissionsHowToGuides/\\$file/Making+a+submission+brochure.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/web/common.nsf/key/CommitteesLCSubmissionsHowToGuides/$file/Making+a+submission+brochure.pdf) and [http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/factsh\\_print/fs10\\_1\\_print.php](http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/factsh_print/fs10_1_print.php)

You can lodge your comments **by Friday 3 August** on line at the government site (see above) or write to  
The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000 fax (02) 9230 3981

Email [gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au)



## Some suggested points are:

### Term of Reference 1

The further conversion of Crown Land, State Forests and agricultural land into National Park estate or other types of conservation areas is urgently needed, benefiting biodiversity and surrounding production landscapes as well as providing other ecosystem services to the local region, NSW and the nation.

- Already Australia has the shameful reputation of leading the world in extinction of species .and this decline in biodiversity is not being arrested or reversed In 2009 over 850 species were listed as threatened in NSW that is, in danger of becoming extinct in the next 10 to 20 years. This number continues to increase with land clearing and logging.
- National parks have been shown to be amongst the best places to protect threatened animals and plants.
- “Australia’s investment in natural resource management appears to be less on a per-hectare basis (of agricultural land) than in Europe or the United States, and is generally regarded as inadequate to meet Australia’s environmental management needs” *Australia State of the Environment report 2011*
- Compared to other Australian jurisdictions, NSW has the worst record of protecting threatened species populations.
- In December 2011 the NSW Government committed \$4.4 million to support efforts to establish a wildlife corridor along eastern Australia, in collaboration with partners from Queensland, Victoria and the ACT. Associated with this commitment the Office of Environment and Heritage recommended that “Acquisition of new protected areas should be expedited to ensure this commitment is realised”
- Conversion of land to national park can provide beneficial impacts on the neighbours of public land and to Local Government, for example:
  - National parks provide ecosystem services for the local region as well for the State and Nation.
  - Establishment of national parks can boost economies and hence the social well being of rural towns by providing a strong draw for tourism, eg Kosciusco NP.
  - Local towns which value the biodiversity found in NP can derive recreational benefits as well as health benefits wilderness and related studies clearly demonstrate that being in a natural environment affects people positively, particularly in terms of mental health,
  - NPWS is well funded to control fire management and has pest control programs. This contrasts with some neighbours which fail to take proactive measures to control these risks. Spread of weeds from neighbouring properties poses a significant management problem for some national parks.
  - Native vegetation in good condition can present a more resistant barrier to colonisation by some introduced species.
  - Higher levels of biodiversity make adjacent production landscapes more resilient to external shocks, such as drought, than more simplified systems.

### Term or Referemce 3.

Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) provides a model for the management of public land that provides for conservation outcomes consistent with the principle of “sustainable use”.

- Formation and effective management of national parks is consistent with the aims of ESD. That is, to provide for the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. At the national level it has been defined as ‘using, conserving and enhancing the community’s resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased’.
- The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) was endorsed at the Council of Australian Governments meeting in Perth in December 1992 by all Heads of Government, including NSW. A core objective is to ‘protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems’.

During the election campaign the Shadow Minister for the Environment, Catherine Cusack, assured voters that an O’Farrell government would not allow logging, mining, shooting or grazing in national parks.

*Judith Bourne*

## COASTWATCHERS COMMITTEE 2010-11

President	Sheila Monahan	02 4473 6204
Vice Pres.	Reina Hill	02 4472 8566
Treasurer	Keith Joliffe	02 4473 8519
Secretary	vacant	
Committee		
Judy Bourne	0420 827 592	Brian Versey 02 4472 7384
Public Officer/cmtee	Jenny Edwards	02 4471 5032
Sub-committees	John Perkins	02 4478 6428
	Anthony Mayne and Linda Chapman	02 4471 7208
Internet Operations	John Allen	02 4471 2512

PO Box 521, Batemans Bay NSW 2536  
Email [coastwatchers@netspeed.com.au](mailto:coastwatchers@netspeed.com.au)  
Website [www.coastwatchers.org.au](http://www.coastwatchers.org.au)



If undelivered return to;  
The Coastwatchers Association Inc,  
PO Box 521  
BATEMANS BAY NSW 2536

## COASTWATCHERS COOPERATE WITH THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

Broulee-Mossy Pt Community Association  
Congo Area Association  
Eurobodalla Landcare / Dunecare  
Friends of Durras  
Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens  
Long Beach Landcare  
Maloneys Residents Association  
Nature Coast Marine Group  
South East Region Conservation Alliance  
Tomakin Community Association  
Tuross Lakes Preservation Group

Coastwatchers is a member of -  
The NSW Nature Conservation Council  
Conservation Council ACT Region and  
Climate Action Network Australia



# Coastwatchers

*Eurobodalla's environment and climate action group*

ABN 66 003 550 939

## EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Members can receive the newsletter by email and save our association paper, time and postage. The email contains a link to a choice of full or text-only PDF files that you can download when convenient

## COMING EVENTS

**Sat 28 July – Coastwatchers quarterly meeting**

**Sat 8 September – Council elections**