



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

MAYORAL REPORT

3rd February 2009

MM6	PROPOSAL FOR MARINE PARK, SOUTH WEST ROCKS	FILE: 658	MAYOR	{Folio No. *}
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SUMMARY:

Reporting on attendance at a public meeting concerning a proposal of the National Parks Association

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DESCRIPTION:

The aim of the Association is to gain marine sanctuary status for 20% of NSW oceans reaching from Tweed Heads in the north to Cape Howe in the south.

Recommendation No 5 (34 in all) states:

That an appropriately zoned 10,000ha Marine Park be established between Monument Point, South West Rocks in the north to approximately nine kilometres south of the northern end of South Smokey Beach including the NSW marine jurisdiction seaward to the 3nm limit.

Recommendation No 7 includes Saltwater Lagoon and Korogora Creek (Hat Head National Park).

Recommendation No 9 – that an area within the north arm of the Macleay River estuary (202ha) be established as a no-take Aquatic Reserve.

The meeting was attended by in excess of 500 people with Councillors Jim Gribbin, Dean Saul and Alan Snowsill within the audience.

Mr Ken Thurlow "Ecofish" addressed the meeting and spoke of the economic and social issues which had impacted on areas such as Byron Bay and Bermagui where Marine Parks had been established.

Enquiries at Byron, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shire Councils failed to disclose any measurable decline in the social or economic status of those areas as a result of the Marine Parks established.

Undoubtedly it has impacted on commercial fishers who were the subject of Government licence buy-back arrangements.

Nevertheless Council should make representations to the State Government to ensure that in the event that Marine Parks are to be considered in the future a detailed investigation based on economic environmental and social grounds is carried out coupled with community consultation.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil

- *Social*

Nil

- *Economic (Financial)*

Nil

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That representations be made to The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and Minister for Commerce in respect to the matter of future Marine Parks in New South Wales.

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J H Howell
MAYOR