



The Hon Stuart Robert MP  
Federal Member for Fadden



26 July 2016

The Hon Mike Baird MP  
Premier  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

Australia's coastline is one of our nation's finest assets. We are fortunate that we can live, work and play by this coastline. I write to you regarding your Government's actions on coastal reform.

As I understand, the coastal reforms the NSW Government (the Government) is undertaking aim to establish legislative and policy settings, and the practical tools, that resilient coastal communities need for a number of reasons. One such reason is to support coastal communities to increase their resilience to existing and emerging coastal hazards and threats.

I support the Government's actions to address issues such as this. My understanding is that the coastal reforms will allow the individuals in coastal communities to be more proactive in their contribution to coastal management. I believe the Government is implementing such a vision through a new legislative and regulatory framework as well as a new coastal management manual to better support council decision-making.

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly highlight concerns raised by my constituents, who have investment properties along the NSW coastline, and to urge your Government to put in place pro property protection legislation which would allow property owners who reside in specific zoning areas the ability to further protect their homes against existing and emerging coastal hazards. Such legislation would certainly seek to work in conjunction with the existing local council as well as the proposed Independent NSW Coastal Council.

By having pro property protection legislation in place occurrences such as the devastating scenes of houses crumbling into the ocean at Collaroy beach in Sydney, earlier this year, may have been reduced as the property owner would have a greater ability to address their concerns, such as erosion, in conjunction with the respective council. Other areas throughout NSW such as Woolli would also see great benefit from such legislation where concerns about dune erosion have been presented over time.

It is time for coastal reform. The preservation and protection of both our natural coast and those individuals who reside on it are at the forefront of the legislative changes that must occur. We must continue to make living on the coastline practical and safe.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Stuart Robert MP**  
**Federal Member for Fadden**

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T: (07) 5500 5919 F: (07) 5500 5484 | E: [stuart.robert.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:stuart.robert.mp@aph.gov.au)  
P: PO Box 733, Biggera Waters, QLD, 4216 | A: 1/110 Brisbane Rd, Labrador, QLD, 4215