



**Niall Blair**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Lands and Water

**Mark Speakman**

Minister for the Environment

## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 18 April 2016

### **CONSULTATION PERIOD EXTENDED ON ENHANCING MARINE MANAGEMENT**

The NSW Government is giving users of the marine estate between Newcastle and Wollongong an additional two weeks to have their say on eight suggested initiatives to enhance marine biodiversity conservation along the coast and in estuaries.

Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water, Niall Blair said submissions would now close on Sunday, 8 May, providing extra time for coastal communities to have their say on this important issue.

“Threats to the environmental assets and the social and economic benefits of the bioregion have been identified for the first time and prioritised through community engagement and an evidence-based threat and risk assessment,” Mr Blair said.

“We have extended the consultation period by two weeks to ensure we give every person who would like to make a submission the opportunity to do so.”

Environment Minister Mark Speakman said the NSW Government had already consulted widely with community groups and stakeholders.

“Twenty meetings have been held with advisory councils and stakeholder groups, who use or manage the marine estate, including the Port Authority of NSW, Aboriginal community members, commercial and recreational fishers, conservation groups and boating interest groups, among others,” Mr Speakman said.

“I encourage the community to provide feedback on these initiatives to inform the final recommendations to the NSW Government later this year.”

Submissions close on Sunday, 8 May. Submissions can be made online at [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au), via email at [contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au) or by post:

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