



New South Wales Government

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Police
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

Sunday, 22 March 2009

MEREWETHER BEACH DECLARED A NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, today announced Newcastle's iconic Merewether Beach has become one of only five sites in Australia to be declared a National Surfing Reserve.

The Minister unveiled a dedication plaque during the final day of Surfest with Minister for the Hunter and Tourism Jodi McKay and former world surfing champion Mark Richards.

Mr Kelly said the surfing reserve stretches from Dixon Park in the north to Burwood Beach in the south, some two kilometres of spectacular coastline.

"This announcement will legally protect the area as a surfing reserve, providing it with the same status as Victoria's Bells Beach and NSW's four other national surfing reserves at Angourie, Lennox, Crescent Head and Cronulla Beaches," Mr Kelly said.

Minister for the Hunter and Minister for Tourism Jodi McKay welcomed the announcement, saying it is another step towards making NSW the premier surfing state in Australia.

"We are working hard with Surfing NSW to develop a surfing strategy for NSW and a surfing trail along the coast, and this announcement supports that plan.

"Merewether Beach has not only produced some of the country's best surfers, but has become a focal point for the Newcastle community. It has helped develop a tremendous sense of community and helped shape the surfing culture in Australia.

"I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the local steering committee who pushed this over line," Ms McKay said

Mr Kelly said NSW is leading the way in recognising surfing sites of significance.

"I hear there's a claim from our Western Australian counterparts that they have the greatest stretch of surfing coast in the country along the Margaret River," Mr Kelly said.

"I would like to officially challenge this claim and go on the record to say NSW definitely has the most spectacular coastline, and our fifth National Surfing Reserve here at Merewether stands testament to this.

"I call for other NSW beaches to nominate for this prestigious honour.



New South Wales Government

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Police
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

“Merewether Beach is one of the most celebrated breaks in the country and I’m delighted to be here today to make this announcement.

“There are more than 10,000 beaches hugging Australia’s coastline but Merewether Beach will now be regarded as one of the few iconic sites in the country.”

National Surfing Reserve Founder and Chairman, Brad Farmer said Merewether Beach is one of the most loved, revered, and iconic beaches in the country.

“Today’s announcement will not only benefit Newcastle, but the state as a whole,” she said.

Newcastle Lord Mayor, John Tate, also welcomed Merewether Beach joining the network of National Surfing Reserves in Australia.

“Newcastle is famous for its beautiful coastline and it draws thousands of tourists to the city every year. This will certainly help attract more visitors to the region,” Mr Tate said.

Four-time world surfing champion, Mark Richards, was on the local steering committee and worked tirelessly to see Merewether recognised on the national stage.

“I’ve surfed the waves of Merewether for the last 40 years and I’m so proud to see this beach honoured here today as a National Surfing Reserve,” he said.

Mr Kelly said the surfing reserve recognises the importance of our coastline for recreation and has been made possible with strong community support.