



Rob Stokes MP

Member for Pittwater

MEDIA RELEASE

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Spotlight On Sustainability Of Pittwater Estuary

Member for Pittwater Rob Stokes today announced the NSW Government is commencing consultation on the future of commercial fishing within the Pittwater estuary.

The NSW Marine Estate Management Authority has put forward a range of management initiatives to help improve marine conservation and maximise community benefits in key coastal areas.

The Pittwater estuary has been identified due to evidence of resource-use conflict between commercial net fishing and other user groups and the threats posed to the estuary's long-term environmental sustainability and social value.

"The Pittwater estuary is our community's most valuable natural asset," Rob Stokes said today.

"Boating, fishing, kayaking, sailing and swimming are key parts of our community's lifestyle and are all supported by this incredible waterway.

"Countless marine based businesses, tourism operators and retail providers also heavily depend on the estuary's attractiveness and sustainability.

"Managing risks and conflicts is vital to help protect this valuable community asset and the continuation of commercial netting is now squarely under the spotlight.

"Various controls such as closures to commercial netting on weekends have been implemented but concerns still remain.

"For the first time an extensive threat and risk assessment has been undertaken and our community is now being asked to have our say on the future of commercial netting and the best ways forward.

"Community feedback will help inform further evaluation of the management responses and final recommendations to the NSW Government later this year.

"Copies of the report, and details on how to provide feedback, are available by visiting www.marine.nsw.gov.au .

"Submissions close on 24 April – so I encourage everyone who uses and enjoys the Pittwater to get involved and have their say," Rob Stokes said.

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