



# ACS

Australian Coastal Society Ltd

PO Box 65, Flinders University, Bedford Park SA 5042

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The Australian Coastal Society is dedicated to healthy ecosystems,  
vibrant communities, and sustainable use of coastal resources.

13 May 2013

Prof Bruce Thom AM  
Member of the Coastal Expert Panel

Dear Sir,

### **Coastal Management Reform Process**

The Australian Coastal Society (ACS) represents over 200 eminent scientists, coastal managers, industry professionals and members of the coastal community up and down the NSW coast and across Australia.

In the interests of transparent and accountable government, the ACS seeks clarification of the Coastal Expert Panel's role and advice in relation to advising the Coastal Ministerial Taskforce. It is my understanding that a number of meetings have been held in regard to coastal management reforms in the State, yet to date no information has been made publicly available. We believe this is a serious flaw in the success of the reform process due to the high public interest in the coast.

As you will appreciate the coastal environment holds a very special significance to a large number of Australians and contributes in a number of ways to the health of the NSW economy. It is for these reasons the good management of the NSW coast is of utmost importance, and transparency in the reform process is vital.

The ACS would like to see the terms of reference for the coastal expert panel made public, as well as the membership of the Panel. The ACS would also like to see the minutes of every meeting the Coastal Expert Panel has undertaken, and any advice it has given Ministers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require clarification or further information before actioning this request. I can be contacted on 0405 564 929 or via the email address below.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom FitzGerald', is written over a white background.

Tom FitzGerald  
**Convenor NSW Branch**  
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