25 September, 2010

MANLY-FRESHWATER DECLARED NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE

Manly and Freshwater Beaches have today become the eighth national surfing reserve in NSW, providing legal protection for the popular surf beaches.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said Manly and Freshwater have been popular surfing locations for more than a century.

Numerous significant events in the history of surfing have taken place there including:

- Body surfing in Australia began there in the 1890s;
- The world’s first official surf patrol boat was launched at Manly in 1907;
- Hawaiian surfer Duke Kahanamoku famously demonstrated board surfing at Freshwater Beach in 1914; and
- The first World Surfing Championships were held at Manly in 1964.

The Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) had been working in partnership with the National Surfing Reserves Committee (NSRC), Warringah Council, Manly Council, Manly-Freshwater National Surfing Reserve Committee and the local community to create the new reserve under the Crown Lands Act.

The Manly-Freshwater National Surfing Reserve covers the area from Freshwater Beach to a point 500 metres east of Shelly Beach Headland and offers five sites for surfing – Freshwater, Queenscliff, North Steyne, South Steyne and Fairy Bower.

Mr Kelly said the dedication of this site as a national surfing reserve recognises its importance in the historical and cultural development of surfing in Australia.

“This is a wonderful day for the local communities and I am thrilled the NSW Government is able to support such an important initiative,” the Minister said.

“This dedication will legally protect the area as a surfing reserve, providing it with the same status as Victoria’s Bells Beach and NSW’s seven other national surfing reserves at North Narrabeen, Angourie, Lennox, Crescent Head, Cronulla Beaches, Merewether and Killalea.

“The surfing reserve is an initiative that recognises the importance of our coastline for recreation and is the type of proposal the NSW Government’s State Plan encourages.”