

Professor Bruce Thom
Australian Coastal Society
Lessons from the NSW Coast

Since the mid 1980's there have been a number of shifts in direction on how the NSW coast has been managed. Changes in government policy, administrative arrangements and community attitudes in how the coast is managed have occurred over this period. These changes have taken place in the context of population growth pressures in every local government area and our understanding of biophysical processes including potential impacts of global warming. Shifts from sectoral to coordinated to sectoral approaches to coastal management creates difficulties in providing consistent messages to stakeholders on protection of coastal values. Lessons arise from different administrative arrangements which impact on the capacity of local councils, catchment authorities and state government agencies to provide integrated outcomes for coastal management and planning.