

Dear Mr Morris

Thank you for your letter of 7 February 2019 to Councillor Kathy Neilson, Randwick City Council, regarding spearfishing at Little Bay. Randwick City Council has asked that the NSW Department of Primary Industries responds to you on this issue.

I understand that Eastern suburbs beaches are popular recreation areas for swimming, SCUBA diving, snorkelling, paddle boarding, fishing and spearfishing, and that at peak times use of the beaches in the area can reach capacity.

The issue of spearfishing along some Eastern suburbs beaches, including Little Bay and Malabar Bay, was raised at a recent Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council meeting. The Council noted concerns regarding spearfishing at these locations and recommended that the Department continues to implement a non-regulatory, education approach to address the issues.

You may be aware that DPI previously worked cooperatively with Randwick Council, spearfishing organisations, community groups and members of the public to implement a NSW Spearfishing Safety Education Action Plan. It is recognised that this plan was largely successful in addressing the user group issues in the past.

I have requested my staff to review the previous Action Plan and to investigate and develop additional initiatives to add to the Plan to ensure that spearfishers using these Eastern suburbs localities are aware of the recommended safe spearfishing practices and guidelines. Some potential additional initiatives could include developing site specific signage, implementing local community events involving DPI Fisheries Education Officers and Fishcare volunteers, targeted social media campaigns and so on.

I have asked that Mr Chris Cleaver, Fisheries Manager, be available to discuss the matter further with you. He can be contacted on (02) 4424 7459 or by email chris.cleaver@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Peter Turnell
Group Director, Recreational and Aboriginal Fisheries
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