MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPPORTING MARINE INDUSTRY JOBS ON THE NORTH COAST

Planning Minister Rob Stokes today visited the North Coast to announce new policy guidelines to help boost marine-based jobs and protect the environment in the region.

Mr Stokes said the policy will assist councils and businesses to determine the most appropriate places for marine-based industries such as fishing and boating by:

- Providing clear criteria to guide where businesses should be located, and
- Detailing attributes of the North Coast’s most significant waterways to guide investment decisions.

“The North Coast is a natural treasure and vital economic asset for the local community, and NSW as a whole,” Mr Stokes said.

“There are long-established industries on the North Coast based around working ports and commercial fisheries. This policy helps grow these industries, while ensuring environmental protection and recreational use of waterways,” Mr Stokes said.

“The waterways on the North Coast are for everyone to enjoy. Good planning means we can grow jobs without impacting on the environment.”

Parliamentary Secretary for the North Coast and Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis said the new guidelines will benefit communities in the region.

“This will mean that our vital marine industries can survive and thrive, which is a great thing for the local economy,” Mr Gulaptis said.

The policy applies from the Queensland border in the North to Tea Gardens north of Newcastle and covers the region’s significant waterways.

The draft policy was developed together with councils and government agencies in consultation with the public. The policy can be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/