



# DR MICHAEL HOLLAND MP

MEMBER FOR BEGA

29 May 2026

Mr Jason Ford  
Mrs Angela Ford  
48 Myamba Pde  
Surfside NSW 2536

Dear Jason and Angela

I wanted to provide you with a clear update on what's currently happening regarding erosion at Surfside Beach and the actions being taken.

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is working closely with Eurobodalla Shire Council on Surfside coastal management, with Transport for NSW involved where needed. Following the late March 2026 storm, the Department and Council met in April and May to review the situation, including dune erosion, impacts on the Norfolk pines, and community concerns.

### What's happening now:

- Council is actively monitoring the beach and dune using drone surveys and on-ground measurements, with support from the Department and an ANU researcher.
- Council is considering **further sand scraping** as a short-term response under its Coastal Zone Emergency Action Subplan.
- Funding options are being explored, including up to \$100,000 through the Coast and Estuary Grant Program, as well as other opportunities to bring works forward sooner.

### Longer-term approach:

- The long-term plan remains sand nourishment through dredging of Batemans Bay, managed by Transport for NSW under the Coastal Management Program.
- While dredging occurred in October 2025, the sand was placed about 600 metres offshore rather than directly on the beach due to cost constraints.
- It's still unclear whether that offshore sand is naturally moving back onto the beach. This is currently being monitored through hydrographic surveys in partnership with UNSW.



**Private property and protection works:**

- Property owners can apply for approval to build coastal protection works (like revetments), but it is important to note that these applications can be complex, costly, and require detailed environmental and engineering assessments.
- Importantly, the dune itself is Crown land managed by Council, so private works cannot be carried out there without approval — and structural works in this area are unlikely to be supported.
- The current Coastal Management Program does **not** recommend large structural solutions like seawalls or revetments at Surfside, which adds to the complexity of approvals.

Overall, the focus right now is on monitoring the beach recovery, considering practical short-term measures like sand scraping, and continuing to push for longer-term sand nourishment solutions.

I'll continue to share updates as more information comes to hand. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if there's anything we can assist you with.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'm. holland', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Michael Holland MP**  
**Member for Bega**