



# Surfrider Foundation®

Conservation \* Activism \* Research \* Education

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Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra 2600

15<sup>th</sup> August 2002

Dear Sir/Madam

Surfrider Foundation Australia is a non-profit environmental conservation organisation with 29 Branches throughout Australia and International Affiliates in USA, Japan, Brazil and Europe.

As the Executive Officer of Surfrider Foundation Australia, I have been encouraged by Margaret May MP to lodge a submission for consideration regarding the proposed "Inquiry Into Environmental Employment and Growth".

The environmental sector has traditionally been reactive to environmental and conservation issues. Surfrider Foundation Australia uses a proactive approach to environmental issues through school and community education programs and regular publications to members and the public. Surfrider Foundation Australia also conducts regular events such as beach cleanups and hold on to your butts campaign. The Foundation also conducts research projects such as "Human Impact on Australian Beaches" through Coastcare.

The Foundation involves several hundred active members and employs 2 full time staff, 10 volunteers and 6 Directors. In addition, projects generate up to 10 staff or volunteers. The total value of services is estimated at \$340,000 per annum. Branch involvement and events labour value is estimated at \$210,000 per annum. Surfrider Foundation Australia relies heavily on government and private assistance through grants, sponsorships – both in kind and cash, memberships, merchandise sales, events and publications. Financial assistance is used for education, administration, projects, events and publications. Total Capital budget for the National Office is approximately \$100,000 per annum which is injected into the economy.

As coastal urbanisation increases, the environmental sector will need to proportionally expand. Employment of environmental science graduates is minimal. Despite this, we do not have and cannot ensure an appropriately skilled workforce to meet the increasing demands.

I am encouraged by this initiative and happy to participate in discussions following the review of the submissions.

Yours sincerely

*Paul D. Hough*  
Paul D. Hough

Secretary: *Ana Lane*

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20 AUG 2002

**Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of Australia's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through Conservation, Activism, Research and Education.**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE