



**PARTNERSHIPS FOR  
CLEANER SEAS**

**AUSMEPA MEDIA RELEASE**

**THIS MEDIA RELEASE IS ISSUED BY THE  
AUSTRALIAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (AUSMEPA)**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MICHAEL JULIAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**02 6254 2559**

**0417657951**

**[mjulian@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mjulian@bigpond.net.au)**

**[www.ausmepa.org.au](http://www.ausmepa.org.au)**

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**AUSMEPA Awarded \$26,000 Coastcare Grant**

AUSMEPA's Executive Director, Michael Julian, announced today that AUSMEPA's application for a *Caring for our Country* Community Coastcare grant had been jointly approved by The Hon. Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts and The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Julian said the grant would enable AUSMEPA, together with its project partners, to develop a student leadership education resource program in coastal conservation.

The Coastal Conservation Student Leadership program will provide students with the skills and educational tools to undertake a leadership role in local coastal conservation projects.

When completed, the education program will be available free to schools, conservation and coastal community groups on the AUSMEPA website [www.ausmepa.org.au](http://www.ausmepa.org.au), in the same way as its several other marine environment education programs.

Julian said the project partners; the Peninsula Community of Schools located in the vicinity of Sydney's northern beaches, the New South Wales School Surfing Association, Surfaid International and Coastalwatch would assist in trialling the program and its promotion to all schools in Australia's coastal cities, towns and communities.

The program will provide the opportunity for older students to become involved in environmental and sustainable coastal conservation along Australia's vast coastline. There is potential for a very high level of partnership between schools, local communities and conservation groups as well as indigenous Australians, he said.

The AUSMEPA application was one of 794 out of which 421 projects were successful and will receive over \$20 million in 2008/2009.