



# The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

Thursday 22 September 2011

# SURF'S UP FOR NEW SEASON

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, will officially launch the NSW Surf Life Saving Patrol season tomorrow at a 'Raising the Flags' Ceremony to be held at Manly Life Saving Club.

Mr Annesley said, "The NSW Government is a significant partner with both Surf Life Saving NSW and local surf lifesaving clubs in protecting the expected millions of beachgoers who will visit our beaches this summer.

"Every year 72,000 surf lifesavers at 129 clubs spend more than 600,000 voluntary hours patrolling the beaches along the NSW coastline.

"They also perform upwards of 7,000 rescues and 30,000 first aid cases which highlight their invaluable contribution to saving lives at one of our most enjoyable pastimes, going to the beach.

"Unfortunately not everyone is as well-equipped as they should be to handle the demands of the surf and these vital services provided by our surf lifesaving clubs continue to ensure our beaches are as safe as humanly possible.

"In the recent budget the NSW government committed \$12 million over the next four years to address drowning black spots, provide water safety education and support surf lifesaving.

"\$2 million is also being provided by way of the Surf Club Facility Grant Program to upgrade facilities at surf lifesaving clubs up and down the coast of NSW.

The Surf Club Facility Grant Program will open from 23 September to 27 October 2011 and online applications are welcome.

"Australians love their beaches and the Surf Life Saving clubs and their members are to be congratulated in raising awareness of water safety within the community.

"The NSW Government is committed to upgrading facilities for our dedicated surf club members, the public and local community groups, and also to ensure NSW beaches are safe," Mr Annesley said

*Event details:*

*Surf Life Saving NSW 'Raising the Flags' Ceremony*

*8:15 for 8:30am; Manly Life Saving Club, Ashburner Street, South Steyne.*