FACT SHEET:

- The Department of Primary Industries estimates there are about 50,000 rock fishers in NSW.

- According to Surf Life Saving NSW data, of the 53 people that drowned in NSW in 2015-16, 10 were rock fishing. This is above the 10 year average of eight rock fishing drownings annually.

- Surf Life Saving NSW data also shows in 2013-14 rock fishing was the number one cause of drowning.

- Randwick Local Government Area has the highest rate of rock fishing drownings in the state, with Little Bay and Cape Banks some of the most dangerous locations.

- Data from Rock Fishing in Randwick City Survey 2013 Report shows that even though Randwick’s 29km of coastline accounts for just 0.11 per cent of the Australian coastline, in 2011-12 it accounted for 27 per cent of the rock fishing deaths in Australia.

- A 2015 Coronial Inquiry conducted by NSW Deputy Coroner Carmel Forbes into the deaths of eight rock fishers recommended mandating the wearing of life jackets at rock fishing sites, as well as consideration of a 12 month grace period and a dedicated education campaign.

- While it will be compulsory to wear a life jacket at rock fishing sites in the Randwick Local Government Area from 1 December, the legislation enables the Minister to declare further sites after the 12 month trial.

- The Department of Justice is working with Randwick City Council to implement the new law and on a community education campaign.

- In February 2016 a working group was established to determine high risk rock fishing locations and develop options for the mandatory life jacket law. Members included the Department of Primary Industries, NSW Police Force, Transport for NSW, Office of Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Surf Life Saving NSW and the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW.

- Standard approved life jackets that meet the requirements under the new law are available for purchase from around $20.