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NEWS

Congwong nudity debate rages online



On Sunday, February 21, police issued formal warnings to nude bathers on Little Congwong beach in La Perouse.
Photo: BRAD HUNTER

A police raid on an unofficial nudist beach at La Perouse has ignited a furious online debate about whether Little Congwong should be declared a clothing optional beach.

The NSW Free Beach Action Group is attempting to have the beach classified as an official nudist beach and if the online debate is anything to go by, the group has plenty of support.

The *Southern Courier* took to the streets around La Perouse last week to see if the word on the street reflected the online debate and found that most people thought that because the beach was private and could be protected from families, they had no issue with it being a nudist beach.

Because of the controversial nature of the topic, many asked not to be identified in the street poll, but two people were brave enough to put their name and face to the debate.

Darko Malnar, of La Perouse, said: "(Nudity's) a good thing; I'm European, so to me it's normal. But I find that Australia can be a bit conservative at times. In Europe everyone does it, families go, grandmas and grandchildren, but here if you go people think there is something wrong with you."



Mr Malnar

Annette Clancey, of Chifley, said: "I'm not against nudist beaches as long as they're not around families. Each to their own, I think. If it's a moral issue, then I understand why the council wants to shut it down."



Ms Clancey

ONLINE COMMENTS

LET'S finish that nonsense and register the beach as a nudist beach. Stop wasting police resources. One can be sure us nudists will tolerate other users wearing swimming wear. **Krystyna**

LITTLE Congwong beach is not a registered beach for nude bathing or tanning. These

people need to think there are families around and if they want to be nude they should do it in their own backyard; it's disgusting and not acceptable. **Olivia**

THIS BEACH is ideal for nude bathing - it is isolated from homes, yet easy to access. It is in a beautiful natural setting, with calm waters allowing people of all ages to swim safely. **Steve**

AS A LOCAL I find it highly confronting to have nude men wandering around in the bush trails behind the beach. It seems that because the silent majority don't make a fuss, the vocal minority think that they have some sort of case. They don't. **Libby**

IF it's an established practice in the area, then why can't the law be changed to reflect the tastes of the people? **Jack**

IT'S not registered but it has been predominantly accepted as an unofficial clothing optional beach for about 40 years. It has only been recently that the status of the beach has come into question - due to a minority of individuals who refuse diversity. **Paula**

LA PEROUSE already has a large beach for those who wish to remain clad. No one is forced to go nude on any nudist beach; it is a matter of personal choice. **Bob**

I CAN'T think of a more suitable location for a nude beach in Sydney than Little Congwong. It is secluded, well away from any public thoroughfares, doesn't monopolise the area's beach resources, and is too far away from car parks for most families to be bothered going to. **Chris**

By work experience student
Alexandra Lazcano



Add your thoughts to the debate about nudity at Little Congwong at:
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