

Memorandum

To: Club Captains, Club Presidents, Branch Directors of Lifesaving & Branch Presidents
From: Glen Dunkley, SLSNSW Director of Lifesaving
Date: 16th February 2026
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Subject: Extension of 2025/26 and 2026/27 Patrolling Seasons

The NSW Government has announced that there will be an additional public holiday on the Monday following Anzac Day this year and in 2027. The dates for these two additional public holidays will be Monday 27th April 2026 and Monday 26th April 2027.

In response to this announcement and in line with our commitment to maintaining consistent community safety outcomes across the coastline, the Surf Life Saving NSW Board have endorsed the extension of the 2025/26 and 2026/27 patrol seasons to incorporate these additional dates for Clubs and Rescue Services.

Operational Guidance

Clubs are requested to update patrol rosters to reflect this additional date (Monday 27th April 2026) for the 2025/26 season and confirm arrangements with their Branch as soon as practical.

The patrol scope for this additional date should reflect the agreed times that is outlined in your club's Lifesaving Service Agreement (LSA) for Period 5 – Sunday/Public Holidays.

Clubs and services that have in place a signed and agreed LSA for the 2026/27 season (Sydney Northern Beaches to Far South Coast) are requested to incorporate the additional date for the public holiday as outlined (Monday 26th April 2027) for their patrol rosters next season

Clubs currently engaged in LSA discussions ahead of the 2026/27 season (Far North Coast to Central Coast) will see amendments to their draft LSAs to incorporate the newly declared state public holiday in 2027.

Branch personnel are requested to:

- Assist and work with Clubs to confirm patrol rostering arrangements are in place
- Review Rescue Service readiness and rosters for Duty Officer, RWC and UAV personnel as appropriate
- Ensure any operational variations or resourcing gaps are escalated to SLSNSW by Sunday March 22nd 2026

We recognise that extending patrol operations represents an additional time commitment for our members. This organisation is deeply appreciative of the dedication, professionalism and resilience consistently shown by our volunteers, particularly when responding to emerging operational needs such as these additional public holidays.

Your presence on our beaches ensures community confidence, strengthens our emergency response capability, and continues to make a tangible difference to public safety across NSW.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your commitment to protecting the community in NSW.

Glen Dunkley,
SLSNSW Director of Lifesaving