

# Beach judge takes final look

## Chelsea White

IT'S a nervous wait to see if Manly's North Steyne Beach is named Australia's Cleanest Beach.

Yesterday, the beach – which took out top state honours in the Clean Beaches Awards – was visited by the national judge to assess whether it shapes up to the other finalists.

These include Queensland's Whitehaven Beach and Western Australia's famous Cable Beach.

Judge Chris Tola visited to see the beach for himself and to hear from Mayor Jean Hay, the surf club and other community representatives

about the area's environmental achievements. Mr Tola said the awards are not just about looking good. "To win a clean beaches award does not simply mean the beach is litter free," he said.

"These awards take into account the whole spectrum of local community sustainability initiatives.

"North Steyne has demonstrated best practice in environmental management and leads by example in the areas of solar power and water conservation."

The national winner will be announced in Queensland on May 25 at the home of last year's winner, The Strand Beach.



Manly Mayor Jean Hay (left), judge Chris Tola and Jo Cooper.