



MEDIA RELEASE

**For immediate release
Sunday, 28 February 2010**

RESCUE HELICOPTER ON TSUNAMI WATCH

The Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter is in the air undertaking surveillance patrols of Sydney's beaches following the Tsunami Alert.

At the request of the NSW State Emergency Service and Surf Life Saving NSW, the helicopter is now patrolling Sydney's beaches between Cronulla in the south and Palm Beach in the north.

The Westpac Life Saver will be reporting back to the SES the number of people on the beaches as well as locating any rock fishermen and advising them of the possible dangers. The helicopter crew are also required to report any unusual surf or wave activity that may be the precursor to a tsunami event.

The helicopter has a specialist ocean rescue team on board and will be assisting the SES and Surf Life Saving NSW whilst the Alert remains in place.

"We have had a direct request this morning from Surf Lifesaving's State Duty Officer to provide the surveillance patrols", said Westpac Life Saver General Manager, Stephen Leahy.

"The helicopter will undertake a number of patrols throughout the day providing direct information back the State Emergency Service's Operations Centre. We will also respond to any request for immediate assistance should any major tsunami event occur."

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Further information:

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