

Sands of crime in the frame

By CHARLES MIRANDA

A COOGEE Beach local has become the **first person in the state to be charged with using his mobile telephone to secretly take photographs of fellow beachgoers.**

The 25-year-old was arrested by police on Saturday after allegedly trawling along the beach **taking photographs of women sunbathing topless.**

He was initially grabbed by beachgoers who said they noticed him walking between towels pretending to be on the phone but snapping images instead.

Only last week council beach inspectors said they would be cracking down this summer on anyone taking unauthorised pictures on the beach.

The man was charged late on Saturday evening with offensive behaviour in a public place and is believed to be the first in the state charged for using a mobile telephone camera.

He is due to appear in Waverley Local Court in two weeks.

The Daily Telegraph has learned the man's Nokia telephone has been seized by police, who downloaded **several photographs of women's exposed breasts and bodies allegedly taken without their knowledge.**

According to witness accounts, the man, dressed in baggy denim shorts, baseball cap and T-shirt, began walking along the beach pretending to be talking on his phone.

He stopped near women and girls, mostly sunbathing by themselves, and took an image.

When he approached the northern end he walked near a 30-year-old advertising executive sunbathing top-

Tougher photo law

MOBILE phone voyeurs who take intimate photographs of people without their knowledge could face up to three years' jail under a new law set to be introduced in New Zealand.

The law will make it an offence to surreptitiously film intimate situations involving nudity, partial nudity, sexual or other intimacy where people would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Under the new Intimate Covert Filming Bill, to be introduced into Parliament next year, making, publishing or distributing voyeuristic material recorded without consent will carry a penalty of up to three years' jail.

less on her back and outstretched his arm over her body to snap an image.

The woman's boyfriend, who asked not to be named, said yesterday he saw the action and immediately grabbed the man by the throat.

"I told him, 'give me the phone' and he said, 'no I haven't done anything wrong, I've done nothing wrong, what are you talking about'," the boyfriend said.

Within minutes, four university students from Parramatta claimed to have seen the man taking pictures all along the beach and a mother also claimed he took a picture of her daughter.

Have you been the victim of a phone pervert?