

Pumping is only way to keep beach

By KATE HICKSON

KIRRA Point lobbyists say back-pumping sand south at the Tweed River is necessary to avoid a natural disaster.

Andrew McKinnon from Kirra Point Inc said residents were terrified the banks of the Tweed River would break and Letitia Spit to the south would vanish during the May storms.

He said future bad weather could spell disaster for the area.

Both Queensland and NSW ministers have agreed the option of pumping some sand south instead of north to replenish the eroded beach at Letitia would be considered in changes to the Tweed River sand bypass project.

Mr McKinnon said back-pumping sand south would not disrupt the natural northerly movement of sand and said it was definitely needed to replenish the beach between Letitia Spit and Fingal.

"If we lose any more sand there and the banks of the river break or overflow, it would be a natural disaster zone," he said.

"We need to back pump some sand to Tweed to fill out the beach otherwise there is a big risk of major destruction or flooding during storms."

Mr McKinnon said back-pumping could be done even though it was going against what the system was designed for - to pump sand north.

He said he was pleased the government was being flexible with the sand pumping contracts.

"Sand will be pumped to Snapper Rocks to ensure we don't lose more beach," he said.