



Kirra Point Inc says listen to locals who know beaches

Andrew McKinnon, our surfing columnist and member of the Kirra Point Inc community group, gives an update on the efforts to Bring Back Kirra . . .

GOLD Coast City Council and the Queensland government held a public meeting on July 31 to gather information about proposed works to restore Kirra Beach with funds from the \$1.5 million election commitment by Premier Bligh.

In a carefully orchestrated event, attendees were provided with limited information and there was no formal opportunity to discuss long-term management of this project.

Instead, the community was presented with three possible options for medium-term works, all involving scraping sand from the shoreline and placing it on the rear of the beach in order to create a new primary dune system.

Initially, no consideration was given to the use of an offshore dredge to redistribute small volumes of sand from Kirra to North Kirra.

However, council engineers have now expressed a desire to explore the idea of dredging sand off the reef.

Of course, this would have to be approved by both the Queensland and NSW governments, particularly NSW as it manages the transportation of sand.

The first stage of council works in late July at Kirra was only just scratching the surface, with 10,000 cubic metres cleared.

The second stage of sand removal will be far more comprehensive once the options have been decided.

It is crucial the next stage removes greater volumes of sand to help restore Kirra point and the reef.

The next round of works needs to happen sooner rather than later and offshore dredging needs to be considered.

KPI is interested in the best long-term outcome for the whole of the coastline, including Snapper Rocks and Rainbow Bay, not just the outcome for Kirra.

We could have the best point

break in the world, from the Superbank to Kirra.

It's totally possible, with careful consideration and genuine community consultation.

KPI president Wayne Deane said: "Existing funding will only go a small way to addressing the environmental degradation caused by the Tweed River Sand Bypass.

"We are concerned about the lack of vision and foresight by governments on this issue.

"KPI calls on governments to review and revise the contract, legislation, management systems and operating plans governing the sand bypass.

"The role of key stakeholder groups in the ongoing management of the bypass is inadequate and any long-term plan must provide better opportunities for the local community to have input.

"We look forward to continuing our dialogue with Queensland Minister Kate Jones and NSW Minister Tony Kelly in the near future."