



Numbers add up for governments

5000 flock to Kirra for SurfStock festival

BY PATRICK WILLIAMS

THE release of details about plans designed to protect Kirra from sand saturation has capped off the inaugural event to celebrate the world famous surfing location.

While more than 5000 people attended Kirra SurfStock festivities held on and around the beach during the past four days, Queensland climate change and sustainability minister Kate Jones and her NSW counterpart Tony Kelly were finalising a feasibility study into the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project.

Ms Jones said her government remained committed to returning Kirra to its former glory courtesy of a \$1.5 million election promise.

"The study is about looking at long-term options for Kirra to prevent any repeat of sand saturation in the future," Ms Jones said.

"The results of the feasibility study will provide options for improvements in the future operation of the

sand bypassing project and align with long-term outcomes for the sustainable management of Kirra Beach."

The study will consider a new outlet for the sand, alternative sites for dredge disposal and operational improvement such as the capacity to pump sand to the south.

SurfStock festival director Andrew McKinnon said it was obvious the governments were listening to the pleas of the community.

"This shows that the governments are listening to the community. They want Kirra back," Mr McKinnon said.

"People want to see the good old days back, they've been dormant for 10 years. This is such an amazing place."

Kirra Beach was rocking yesterday afternoon and into the night as the "Big Day Out" of the event got underway.

Beachgoers and supporters of the Bring Back Kirra campaign were treated to free music from bands in-

cluding GAS, Cupids Bullet, Minus Equilibrium, The Genes, Birdy and the Quiet Excitement.

Kirra SurfStock officially wrapped up last night with a performance from Tweed band Max Judo.

Mr McKinnon said everyone needed a bit of fun in the sun.

"It's all been about celebrating what Kirra is and what Kirra was," he said.

"It was great to see people coming down to appreciate the greatness of the beach."

The Queensland Government last month altered stage two of its Kirra Beach rescue plan and decided to move 70,000 cubic metres of sand instead of the 200,000 cubic metres originally scheduled to be shifted.

In stage one of the works, 20,000 cubic metres of sand was relocated while storms in May also shifted some sand.

Ms Jones said works to form sand dunes at the back of the beach will commence later this month.