



Too much of a good thing

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Picture: Michael Ross



Kirra sand shift makes a point

by Ben Dillaway
Tweed bureau

THE Kirra 'desert' will start disappearing next week.

Close to 50 per cent of the beach will be moved when the \$655,000 stage two works of the Kirra Beach Restoration Project start on Monday.

The sand, which has choked the point break once renowned by surfers around the world, will be pushed back up the beach to create a new dune system during 10 days of major excavations.

There were concerns the Bligh Government had abandoned their \$1.5 million pledge to 'bring back Kirra' after the project was put on hold in October.

"We're finally getting a result," said Kirra Point Inc spokesman Andrew McKinnon.

"For a while we thought it

might not happen but we can finally pop the champagne corks.

"There is a light at the end of the Kirra tunnel."

Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones said up to 75,000 cubic metres of sand from the tidal zone will be pushed back towards the land.

The new dunes will extend from west of the Miles Street groyne to 50m east of the Coolangatta Creek outlet and will sit about 1.5m above the existing back beach levels.

"There are signs that the famous Kirra barrel may soon return," said Ms Jones.

Mr McKinnon, who has led the campaign to bring back Kirra, said the stage two works would help the beach get its natural shape back.

"It's also going to make the

beach smaller which will be welcome to all the beachgoers, they won't be getting scorched out on the Sahara Desert," he said.

"It's also going to influence the currents which in turn will get sand off the reefs and help to get the beach back to its natural shape, hence helping the point break come back."

Mr McKinnon said when the sand disappears the famed 'freight train' barrels will hopefully reappear.

"We'll get the beach break out in the middle there and with any luck the wave back in front of the stormwater drain," he said.

NSW tourists Noelene and Tara Childs said they were happy to see work start to bring back Kirra.

"It's good for the surfers and this place is all about the surfers," said Mrs Childs.

