

Future of Kirra beach in balance: Have a say

Colin Gilmore | 30th October 2011

ON NOVEMBER 2, have a say on the state of Kirra Point's once internationally famous waves and other coastal concerns.

A public meeting has been announced in addition to a study into improving the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project released by Environment Minister Vicky Darling.

Ms Darling said public consultation would help determine the best option to manage sand flows from south of the Tweed River to the southern Gold Coast's beaches, including Kirra.

"Kirra is an iconic beach which generations of Gold Coast residents and visitors have flocked to and our government has undertaken a long-term plan to restore it to its former glory," Ms Darling said.

"We need to strike the right balance so that everyone who uses the beach - whether they are going for a surf or just going for a walk - finds the right outcome.

"The Bligh Government has already invested \$1.5 million to restore Kirra Beach to its former glory after a build-up of sand widened the beach and prevented waves breaking as they once did.

"We moved 235,000 cubic metres of sand to form new sand dunes from Coolangatta Creek to the Cahill St viewing platform and between the Miles Street Groyne and Coolangatta Creek.

"Those works were completed in February this year and today we take that effort to the next level.

"The Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project is a joint initiative between NSW and Queensland to establish and maintain a navigable entrance to the Tweed River while at the same time maintaining and restoring natural sand supply to the beaches at the southern end of the Gold Coast," she said.

The report outlines four options:

Extend the existing sand pumping and delivery to a new outlet at North Kirra;

Develop additional dredge placement areas along the southern Gold Coast beaches;

Consider the Tweed River entrance a one-off source of sand for beach nourishment works proposed by the Tweed Shire Council at Kingscliff;

Develop a dredging and/or pumping regime to recycle sand to southern Letitia Spit (Fingal Head).

Have your say at the Tweed Civic Centre on November 2 or online: www.derm.qld.gov.au.