

Reviving Kirra 'expensive'

Colin Gilmore | 4th November 2011

FOUR options for enhancing the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project are being considered by the public.

Option one is most likely to improve Kirra's surf conditions, but is also the least likely to be adopted, involving two additional pump outlets 1200 metres and 2400 metres north of an existing Kirra Point outlet.

Option two proposes extra and further offshore dredge placements of sand at Tugun and Bilinga, and Snapper Rocks.

Option three calls for a one-off deposit of 200,000cu/m of Tweed River entrance sand at Kingscliff's eroded beach. And option four proposes "back passing" Tweed River entrance sand south of the Letitia Spit pumping jetty, after which it will join the natural northward drift of sand the jetty mimics.

At a Tweed Civic Centre public meeting on Wednesday night a spokesman for GHD Australia, which conducted the options feasibility study, said option one was easily the most expensive at an overall cost of \$6 million.

"The North Kirra outlet is unfavourable," he said.

"The system would be expensive to maintain and the reason it was originally considered was because there was a large volume of sand in Coolangatta and Kirra, but since we started the study there's been considerable movement of sand northward anyway."

Some locals questioned how any of the options could restore Kirra Point's once-famous surf break, but the representative said he "could not say that".

According to the options feasibility report surf quality at Kirra could improve through use of the North Kirra outlet.

"However this would be subject to careful planning and placement of sand, as sand pumping to this location may also cause a local realignment of the beach south-east to Kirra, to the detriment of Kirra surfing and Kirra Reef in the future," the report reads.

Public feedback can be made until November 30 at www.tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au.