



## ANNA BLIGH

FROM THE PREMIER'S DESK



**T**he State Government will crack down on the use of glass in high risk problem venues across the state in a bid to improve public safety and reduce alcohol-fuelled violence.

This is a real concern and the Gold Coast (46 per cent) and Brisbane (28 per cent) are the location for the majority of incidents (45) in the past 12 months.

As well my government will additionally establish a far-ranging, Queensland-wide Parliamentary Inquiry into alcohol-related violence and its ramifications as part of determined effort to improve public safety throughout the state.

The government will work with the liquor industry and the Queensland Police Service to identify high risk venues and aim to replace glass with plastic or similar cups by the end of the year.

We will be identifying those high risk venues – those places with a history of violence – and acting at high risk times to get plastic drinking vessels in place. Enough is enough - we have to act to stop glass being used as a weapon.

As promised excavation machinery is now in place shifting up to 20,000 cubic metres of sand at Kirra Beach.

The excavation work - part of my Government's \$1.5 million election commitment to restore Kirra Beach – begins as a new survey confirms this year's king tides significantly helped the cause.

In a cooperative project between Gold Coast City Council and the State Government the Council is starting work today on moving sand to fill the lagoons that have formed at the back of Kirra Beach and moving sand to Palm Beach for emergency storm repairs.

The storms in May removed some sand from the visible beach and offshore bars at Kirra which will now be further improved by the excavation work.



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About 100,000 cubic metres of sand was removed from Kirra as a result of the storms – this amount of sand could fill 40 Olympic swimming pools.

Sand levels reduced by up to three metres in the offshore areas, accompanied by a significant movement in the offshore sandbar.

The results from the recent Kirra Beach survey also confirmed a reduction in beach width.

The one kilometre stretch from Kirra Point Groyne to Coolangatta Creek has lost approximately 50 metres of visible beach width from April 2009 to the end of June 2009.

While we can't say for sure that these results will lead to an improvement in the famous Kirra break, it's a definite sign that the beach is starting to recover from the excess quantities of sand that have built up over time.

The Titans might have been beaten by the Bulldogs at Suncorp as part of the historic double-header Friday night, but they are still well and truly in the NRL finals hunt.

There is still plenty of juice in their tank and they are not to be underestimated. They are the best-place Queensland team and their prospects are great.

A smorgasbord of gifts given to Queensland politicians from around the world are to be auctioned for charity.

The auction will take place after a cleaning out of the Ministerial gifts room in the basement of the Executive Building of gifts ranging from aboriginal art to ancient Chinese coins.

These are gifts that myself, my ministers, parliamentary secretaries and members of the previous governments have received over the last five or so years. They will be auctioned this month and the Kids with Cancer Foundation, Red Cross and Surf Lifesaving will get the proceeds. The Auction will take place on Monday, July 27 at the Public Trustee Auction, 35 Burdett St Albion, from 10am.

Details will be available from the Website [www.PT.qld.gov.au](http://www.PT.qld.gov.au) from the afternoon of Friday, July 24.