

Kirra new focus on the dunes

by Katrina Jones

WHERE to from here? That was the question being asked when more than 100 locals met at Coolangatta last night to discuss the Kirra beach restoration project.

With short-term work expected to be completed today, the next step is deciding what the medium-term works should be and where the State's \$1.5 million allocation will go.

Three options were presented with the main aim to move large amounts of sand from the inter-tidal zone at Kirra beach to build dunes in the upper areas between Kirra and North Kirra.

The options all include moving up to 180,000 cubic metres of sand to build either new primary dunes to a 2m, 1.5m or 1m high profiles.

Director of the coastal unit of the Department of Environment and Resource Management David Robinson said the public would have until August 14 to also provide feedback on the long-term management of Kirra beach.

Kirra Point Inc chairman Wayne Deane said the group supported building the dunes up.

"Our long-term goal is to make sure we have better management of where the sand is put so we improve beach amenities and improve the surf," he said.

The short-term work involved moving 20,000 cubic metres of sand from Kirra beach, with half relocated to Palm Beach and the other half used to fill low spots at Kirra.