



Kirra desert sand may filter south

by Ben Dillaway
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THE sand flow that choked Kirra and turned the once mighty point break into a desert, could finally be about to end.

Queensland Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability Kate Jones and NSW Minister for Lands Tony Kelly yesterday announced that they had agreed on a joint approach to fixing the Tweed Sand Bypassing Project.

The 2002 sand-pumping project was designed to maintain the beach but instead dumped millions of cubic metres of sand at Kirra, wiping out the famous waves and a nearby reef.

Ms Jones said the favoured option to come out of a meeting with Mr Kelly was pumping sand south instead of north to Kirra, to replenish the eroded beach at Letitia Spit in NSW.

She said the popular option would be looked

at further in a feasibility study considering a new sand outlet, alternative sites for dredge disposal and the capacity to pump sand south.

Kirra Point Inc spokesman Andy Mackinnon said he was over the moon they were considering pumping the sand south as it was what the group has been campaigning for.

"I'm heartened to hear they've been listening to us," he said.

The first stage of the State Government's \$1.5 million interim plan to restore Kirra to its past glory finished last week, with about 10,000 cubic metres of sand moved from the shoreline to fill the toxic lagoons that had formed at the back of the beach.

Another 10,000 cubic metres of sand was also moved to heavily eroded Palm Beach.

Ms Jones said public comment was being sought on where to relocate 200,000 cubic metres of sand.