

**Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability
The Honourable Kate Jones**

Friday, September 10, 2010

Kirra Beach break making a comeback

Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones has announced the next stage of major works to help restore the world-famous Kirra Beach surf break.

During an inspection of the beach today, Ms Jones also announced the findings of a monitoring report that shows significant progress has been achieved as a result of works already undertaken.

Ms Jones said under the next stage of works, \$800,000 will go towards moving 120,000 cubic metres of sand from the foreshore to build new dunes at the back of the beach in the months leading up to Christmas. \$50,000 will also be spent on completion of crucial dune vegetation works.

"The Bligh Government made a commitment of \$1.5 million at last year's election to deliver real solutions that would help see the Kirra break returned to its former glory," Ms Jones said.

"The Kirra Beach Monitoring Report released today shows we are making great progress toward meeting this commitment.

"As a result of almost \$500,000 of sand-scraping works conducted last July and December, backed up by Mother Nature's natural sand movements last year, the beach at Kirra Surf Life Saving Club is now at its narrowest since May 2003.

"Between October last year and May this year, the volume of sand in the beach excavation zone at Central Kirra was reduced by 57,000 cubic metres.

"To achieve this overall reduction, a total of 95,000 cubic metres of sand was taken from the shoreline by trucks since July 2009.

"The sand was then used to fill lagoons that had formed at the back of Kirra Beach, to build on and extend sand dunes behind the beach, and for emergency repair works at Palm Beach following storms and king tides in May 2009.

"Over the coming months leading up to the Christmas holidays, we will be working to move another 120,000 cubic metres of sand from the foreshore at the northern end of Kirra Beach to build additional dunes.

"That's enough sand to fill almost 50 Olympic swimming pools – work that will ensure we continue to build on the success of the project to date.

"We will also be working on revegetation of the dunes to provide stability to the newly formed landscape, since fencing was completed in February this year."

Ms Jones welcomed the continued advocacy for the project from Kirra Point Incorporated (KPI), with the group reporting that it was pleased with the retreat of Kirra Beach near Kirra Surf Life Saving Club.

"We will continue to work with the group and local council on the planning for this next phase of the project," she said.

"We are also working closely with the NSW Government to identify further long-term solutions to address issues stemming from the pumping of sand from the Tweed River.

"Years of pumping to sustain the northward flow of beach sand from the Tweed River have placed thousands of tonnes of sand along the shore, widening the beach and reshaping the surf.

"The Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project is now preparing two feasibility reports looking into potential improvements for the bypassing system."

Preliminary results indicate possible options for the project to improve efficiency include:

- back-passing with the placement of sand adjacent to the TRESBP jetty so that it is pumped south as well as north;
- placement of dredged sand off Kirra and Bilinga Beaches; and
- construction of a new sand pipe outlet at North Kirra

"Once the results of the feasibility reports are known, our government will continue discussions with NSW on these future options.

"We're committed to ensuring our investment in this project delivers lasting solutions for Kirra."

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