

## **CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR KIRRA BEACHGOERS**

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

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The second stage of the Queensland Government's \$1.5 million project to restore Kirra Beach has been successfully completed in time for the Christmas holidays.

Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones said the efforts to restore Kirra to its former glory were working well.

"Kirra Beach this year is at its narrowest since 2003, with waves scalloping vast areas of sand to other locations," Ms Jones said.

"The evidence is in. The works to bring back Kirra's famous break have made a real impact."

Kirra Point Inc Chairman Wayne Dean said the result of the works had exceeded expectations.

"We weren't expecting to be able to get the back of the beach stabilized with that volume of sand, so this is a great outcome," Mr Dean said.

"We're very happy with the result so far."

Ms Jones said the second stage of the project was completed two weeks ahead of schedule and moved close to 140,000 cubic metres of sand from the tidal zone to create further dunes at the back of the beach.

"The new dunes extend from about 50 metres west of the Coolangatta Creek outlet to the Cahill Street viewing platform with a maximum height of 6 metres above the average sea level," she said.

"Care was taken to ensure the new dunes don't impede seaward views, giving the North Kirra Surf Lifesaving Club clear sightlines to maintain beach safety.

"Revegetation work will begin early next year, when weather conditions are favourable, to give stability to the new landscape."

The works followed two similar projects in July and December last year that moved some 95,000 cubic metres of sand from the tidal area to create a dune at the back of Kirra Beach between the Miles Street Groyne and Coolangatta Creek and at Palm Beach.

"The Kirra Beach Monitoring Report for October 2009 to May 2010 showed that the benefits of the work undertaken in December 2009 have carried through to this year," Ms Jones said.

Post excavation works survey results indicate an average reduction in beach width of 11m at Mean Sea Level and 22m at Mean High Water Springs compared with October 2010 beach widths.

All stages of the Kirra Beach Restoration Project are being carried out in full consultation with key stakeholders including the Gold Coast City Council and Kirra Point Incorporated.

Long term options in terms of potential changes to the operation of the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project to prevent further sand build up will be evaluated in conjunction with the New South Wales Government in the next few weeks.

**CONTACT: 3239 0824**