

## **Environment and Resource Management The Honourable Kate Jones**

**Sunday, February 27, 2011**

### **Kirra Beach works complete**

Environment and Resource Minister Kate Jones today inspected the Gold Coast's Kirra Beach to mark the completion of one of Queensland's biggest coastal regeneration projects.

Ms Jones said this \$1.5 million election commitment to take action on Kirra Beach which had all but lost its world famous surf break after a build up of sand had now been delivered.

"Over the past 18-months 235,000 cubic metres of sand has been moved and Kirra is looking a lot more like the beach people remember," Ms Jones said.

"Before the project, surfers had to walk a long distance to get into the water and the build up of sand prevented the waves from breaking as they once did.

"With the width of the beach now significantly reduced, surfers are once again hoping for big swells at Kirra"

Ms Jones said the project had also involved forming new sand dunes from Coolangatta Creek to the Cahill Street viewing platform and between the Miles Street Groyne and Coolangatta Creek.

"The dunes have now been revegetated with native sand spinifex to help stabilise them," Ms Jones said.

"These improvements will help attract more people back to Kirra Beach."

The restoration project was funded by the Queensland Government and carried out by the Gold Coast City Council with scientific advice from the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Ms Jones said the feasibility study jointly undertaken by the New South Wales and Queensland governments to explore options to improve the operations of the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project was now with the Project's Advisory Committee.

The committee will examine the feasibility study findings this week to provide advice to government. Representatives include the Gold Coast City Council and Tweed Shire Council, local business and community members from both sides of the border.

Following advice from the Advisory Committee a report will be finalised for both governments to consider.

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