COMMUNITY TO HELP STEER THE FUTURE OF MID-NORTH COAST STATE PARKS

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, was on-site at Harrington today to announce the Department of Lands (Lands) would establish advisory committees to assist in the future management of Harrington Beach and Manning Entrance State Parks.

Mr Kelly made the announcement while inspecting Farquhar Inlet with the new Mayor of Greater Taree City Council, Cr Paul Hogan.

“These two newly created State Parks, running from Old Bar in the south to Crowdy Head in the north, are important public lands that hold a special relationship with the local community,” Mr Kelly said.

“The State Parks network ensures a balanced approach to public land management that protects environmentally sensitive areas while encouraging greater recreational opportunities”, Mr Kelly said.

“Lands will be working closely with Greater Taree City Council on determining the best options for future management of these Parks.

“Groups like the local CMA could also be represented on the committees, providing added expertise and access to funding opportunities.

“The committees will help provide invaluable advice to Lands and council on planning and management issues specific to the parks including conservation, visitation and possible future infrastructure and activities to cater for the wide interests of visitors.

“It is anticipated that nominations will be called for in the next month or so, with the committees up and running by the first half of next year,” Mr Kelly said.

Mayor of Greater Taree City Council, Cr Paul Hogan, welcomed the Minister’s announcement, saying it was important for Council to work with both the community and the State Government in getting the balance right for these public lands.

“I’m glad to see that the community will play an active role in the future management of these Parks,” Cr Hogan said.

Mr Kelly was also pleased to advise the draft plan of management for the Manning Regional Crown Reserve went on public exhibition last week.

“The plan sets out the strategic direction for the future of the coastal Crown lands in the Greater Taree City Council area and surrounding region,” Mr Kelly said.

“The draft plan will be on exhibition until 24 November, and I encourage the public to view the draft plan on the Lands website www.lands.nsw.gov.au at the Lands’ office in Victoria St, Taree or the council libraries in Taree and Harrington.”

“These initiatives put the State Plan into practice – protecting valuable coastal lands while encouraging more tourism and recreation on Crown reserves,” Mr Kelly said.

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