4 March 2011

WORK COMMENCES ON LAKE SHAREWAY

Further work has now commenced on the ‘round the lake’ pathway for cyclists and pedestrians, called a shareway, between Koonawarra Bay and Elizabeth Point.

NSW Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said after months of planning and investigation, the next stage of the shareway has been given the go ahead.

“This will be a particularly popular extension to the Lake Illawarra foreshore shareway is expected to cost up to $350,000,” the Minister said.

“It will provide access to the magnificent western foreshores of the lake previously inaccessible to local walkers and cyclists.”

Member for Wollongong, Noreen Hay, welcomed the announcement.

“The construction of a safe pathway for both cyclists and pedestrians around the perimeter of the lake has been one of my long-term goals and that of the Lake Illawarra Authority (LIA),” Ms Hay said.

“It has worked with Shellharbour and Wollongong City Councils over the past 23 years to construct pathways that now extend over 65% of the 37-kilometre lake foreshore.”

LIA Chairman, Doug Prosser, said the route of this new section of the cycleway could extend up to 1.2 kilometres and has been confirmed following extensive studies involving local planning specialists and aboriginal cultural heritage consultants.

“The Lake Illawarra Authority will ensure the proposed works take full account of the potential for archaeological relics along the route,” Mr Prosser said.

Mr Kelly noted the shareway was a further example of the unique partnership between the Authority and the two local Councils.

“This will be a fantastic asset for the communities on the western side of the lake because the views from Elizabeth Point are outstanding,” the Minister said.

“I look forward to seeing the remainder of the pathway between Koonawarra Bay and Tallawarra completed in the near future following further detailed site analysis and discussions with the adjoining landowner, TRUenergy.”