HUNTER TRAVELLING STOCK ROUTE STUDY UNDERWAY

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said a $260,000 study into travelling stock reserves (TSRs) in the Hunter was well underway with a group of key stakeholders holding its second meeting in Maitland on Monday this week.

Mr Kelly said the Rees Government funded study is being undertaken by the Department of Lands (Lands) in conjunction with the Hunter Central Rivers CMA, representatives from relevant government agencies, conservation and cultural heritage groups, farmers and the Hunter Regional Landcare Network.

“The study will set the scene and form the basis for how we deal with TSRs across the state and will provide a valuable tool for how decisions about their ongoing management are made in the future.

“The next stage of the study will involve a field trip to a number of TSRs in the region to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to work through the decision-making framework in a “live” environment prior to it being tested in other parts of the state.”

Mr Kelly said plans for a wide range of ongoing stakeholder consultation opportunities have also been developed including a stakeholder questionnaire that aims to provide information on current and historic usage of TSRs and any future interest in their use.

“TSRs are iconic in terms of their history and significance to NSW. They were originally provided by Government to enable the movement of stock either to market or other locations in times of drought.

“With modern transport this need has now diminished and the Government is now committed to ensuring that TSRs are protected and retained as multi-purpose reserves that enrich the social and environmental fabric of country NSW.

“The Rees Government has devoted $260,000 to the project and is firmly committed to community consultation to appropriately identify key strategies and actions.

Anyone who wishes to comment on the project can contact Lands employee Mark Grace on 4937 9331 or email mark.grace@lands.nsw.gov.au


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