21 August, 2010

KILLALEA MUST BECOME SUSTAINABLE

The NSW Government has announced nearly a quarter of a million dollars has been allocated to the trust which manages the Killalea State Recreation Area this financial year.

However, Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, warned the government cannot continue to fully fund the park’s operations.

“The NSW Government is trying to protect and maintain Killalea for all residents and tourists for generations to come and not just a few who consider it an extension of their backyard,” the Minister said.

“That commitment comes at a cost and workable solutions need to be found.

“There are 17 state parks in NSW, 13 have varying forms of tourist accommodation and development and Killalea is the least developed of all these parks.

“Ten of the parks have a gate fee and generate enough income to maintain their basic facilities, while some require minimal or no financial assistance at all.

“Killalea requires a significant yearly handout, in fact $62,000 more than any other state park in NSW.

“Today I announce $249,923 has been granted to Killalea out of a total annual state park budget of almost $1.6 million, for this year’s maintenance of the area.”

Member for Kiama, Matt Brown, said Killalea attracts more and more people each year, with an estimated 139,000 people last year.

“Killalea is a great public asset AND must continue to be properly maintained to serve the public to the standard that we all expect, and those expectations are rising,” Mr Brown said.