2 August, 2010

FUNDING BOOST FOR AUSTRALIAN SPRINGTIME FLORA FESTIVAL

One of the largest and most popular flora events in NSW has received a $300,000 funding boost from the State Government.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, today allocated the funding to the annual Australian Springtime Flora Festival which opens at Mount Penang Parklands near Gosford on Thursday, September 9.

“Up to $120,000 is available to meet power costs and provide for temporary fencing at the event, while a further $130,000 will go towards the construction of two new public amenities blocks,” the Minister said.

“The funding has been made available through the Festival Development Corporation (FDC) in time to have the work completed for the festival opening.”

The Australian Springtime Flora Festival will feature more than 300 flora and produce displays and landscaped garden settings, as well as stage entertainment, gourmet food and wine stalls, and a wildflower pavilion.

Member for Gosford, Marie Andrews, said a further $45,500 had been allocated by the Department of State and Regional Development.

“This funding will be used to upgrade park infrastructure, including new landscaped gardens and displays, and enable the employment of an events consultant to ensure the long term sustainability of the festival,” Marie Andrews said.

Member for Wyong, David Harris, welcomed the announcement.

“This is a great commitment by the Government for a community festival that has been running for more than 20 years,” Mr Harris said.

“The festival attracts up to 50,000 people from throughout the state and Australia and is a major event for the Central Coast.”