LANDS INVESTIGATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR BALLINA HARBOURS

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, today announced that investigations into opportunities for the Ballina Trawler Harbour and Regatta Avenue Boat Harbour have commenced.

Mr Kelly said possibilities for both harbours had been identified in the Ballina Foreshores Masterplan, recently endorsed by Ballina Council and the Department of Lands (Lands) after public exhibition earlier this year.

“The masterplan recommends a number of improvements in the precinct to support maritime, tourist and recreational opportunities along the foreshore,” Mr Kelly said.

“The Ballina Trawler Harbour and the adjoining open space is Crown land and has potential for development, including an expanded marina as well as residential and tourism development. The relocation of the RTA depot site is also under investigation.

“The funding necessary to deliver improved harbours, public access and services can only come from optimising the use of the site and in this case there is a substantial area of under-utilised space that will be explored for commercial development.

Mr Kelly also said that agreement had been reached recently to transfer the management of the Regatta Ave Boat Harbour from NSW Maritime to Lands, expected to be finalised early in the new year.

“When you add the adjoining Crown lands, there are further opportunities to deliver even better boating facilities within the Harbour.

“Pending some further investigations regarding the feasibility of development proposals suggested in the Masterplan, it is expected that private industry will be invited to participate in any commercial opportunities.

“Consultation will be undertaken with the current users of the Regatta Ave Boat Harbour, given their long standing interests in the site.”

Ballina Shire Council Mayor, Clr Phillip Silver, said the Ballina Foreshores Masterplan recognises the potential for the two boat harbours.

“Council has in fact had a policy of encouraging a marina for over six years, since the previous privately owned marina closed,” Clr Silver said.
“Whist there will be a multitude of related issues such as environmental, water quality, dredging, amenity and public access, Council congratulates the Minister and the NSW Government for progressing the project at this time”, Clr Silver said.

A Registration of Interest (ROI) has been released by Lands for both these sites. This ROI calls for interested parties to nominate as possible candidates for future commercial opportunities and invites ideas to embellish the area consistent with the Masterplan.

Mr Kelly said it is expected that Lands will have a firm position on its options for both sites early next year at which time it should be in a position to invite more detailed proposals from industry.

“Lands has established a strong track record in managing redevelopment opportunities on Crown land in a way that balance economic growth and jobs with sound social, recreational and environmental outcomes,” Mr Kelly said.

The Ballina Foreshores Masterplan is available on Council’s website and the Registration of Interest documentation is available on Lands website www.lands.nsw.gov.au.

Media Contact: Alex McGregor on 0404 015 556