NEWCASTLE COASTAL STRIP TAKES A LEAP FORWARD

Minister for Lands Tony Kelly was joined by Member for Newcastle and Minister for the Hunter Jodi McKay in Newcastle to announce the preferred proponent to redevelop the former Newcastle Bowling Club site.

“I’m pleased to announce that local firm, Stronach Property, has been selected to enter negotiations with the Department of Lands to redevelop the iconic site that overlooks King Edward Park,” Mr Kelly said.

“The site is of significant importance for the city, the region and the state of NSW and the negotiations will now centre on meeting the requirements of the Plan of Management for the site, which was adopted following extensive community consultation.

“This includes providing for a function centre, as well as parking and kiosk facilities and adjoining open space and walkways for the many thousands of people who come to enjoy King Edward Park.

Mr Kelly also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Newcastle Lord Mayor John Tate, Hunter Surf Lifesaving Incorporated and the presidents of Newcastle’s six surf clubs, committing all parties to a cooperative and integrated approach to the planning and development of the city’s beaches.

Ms McKay said the memorandum will lay the foundation for the future management and revitalisation of Newcastle’s iconic beaches, from Stockton in the north, to Merewether in the south.

“It will guide a cooperative approach to planning and development along the strip for public domain improvements that could include anything from cycleways and promenades to upgrading of amenities and picnic areas,” Ms McKay said.

“It also paves the way for the formation of a working group, which will include representatives from each of the signatories, to work together on issues including funding and leasing arrangements for public infrastructure along the strip.”

Mr Kelly said as part of the agreement, the Department of Lands will commit funding towards the proper planning for the area that will be equally matched by Newcastle Council.

“Today’s announcements mark a significant milestone for the Newcastle coastline and the city.

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