19 November, 2010

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT ON EXHIBITION FOR BIDJIGAL RESERVE

A draft plan of management for the 186-hectare Bidjigal Reserve is on public exhibition until 16 December 2010.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said the reserve is highly valued by Hills Shire residents and the broader community for the natural, cultural and recreation experiences it provides.

“Its significance is recognised in its dedication under the Crown Lands Act for the public purposes of Preservation of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, Preservation of Flora and Fauna, and Public Recreation,” the Minister said.

“The reserve is managed by the Bidjigal Reserve community Trust which commissioned Eco Logical Australia and Gondwana Consulting to prepare the draft plan of management.

“Due to the significance of the reserve, a broad stakeholder consultation was undertaken for the preparation of the plan, involving the community, aboriginal groups and government agencies.

“An issues paper was prepared from the comments received and resulting issues were considered in preparing the plan.

Labor MLC for Baulkham Hills, Peter Primrose, said the bushland habitat of the Bidjigal Reserve provides significant opportunities to maintain and improve biodiversity.

“It also has the potential to foster a greater appreciation of aboriginal cultural heritage and accommodating increased, yet sustainable, recreation activities,” Mr Primrose said.

The draft plan can be viewed at:

- The Parramatta Office of the Land and Property Management Authority;
- Darug Research and Information Centre at Seven Hills; and
- www.lpma.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions can either be forwarded to Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd, PO Box 12 Sutherland, NSW, 1499 or emailed to: bidjigal@ecoaus.com.au by 17 December 2010.