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NATIVE TITLE AGREEMENT PAVES WAY FOR HOUSING AND JOBS BOOST

The NSW Government has today announced the State’s first Future Act Native Title Agreement at Forster Tuncurry will free up important Crown Land for future development on the Mid North Coast.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said the Native Title claim on a parcel of Crown land at North Tuncurry has been resolved after successful negotiation with the Worimi and Birpai People of Forster Tuncurry who are the registered Native Title Claimants.

“The land has been identified for growth in a number of planning studies over the past 20 years and this agreement frees up the land for future development,” the Minister said.

“Development of the site will have significant benefits for the local community and support the realisation of the Mid North Coast Regional Strategy creating new jobs, employment lands, retail space and homes.

“The Mid North Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in NSW, with the population of Forster Tuncurry projected to increase 45% by 2031 and this agreement paves the way for the urban development of 400 hectares of land around Tuncurry Golf Club.

“The development, subject to the usual planning consents, is likely to include a mixture of housing types as well as some employment lands and a village centre.

“Tourist facilities and a retirement complex will also be considered to cater for the aging population and the influx of retirees.”

Mr Kelly said the agreement establishes a mutual understanding of how the government and local Aboriginal people can work together to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

“It is a true win-win situation for the Worimi and Birpai People of Forster Tuncurry and the broader local community,” the Minister said.

“The Worimi and Birpai People of Forster Tuncurry will retain access rights to public lands as well as some naming rights and financial benefits.

“The broader local community as well as the broader Aboriginal community will also benefit through increased employment opportunities during construction and in the longer term.

“Our working partnership with the Worimi and Birpai People will continue with extensive consultation to ensure the development respects and protects areas of cultural significance and heritage value.

“Other local community groups will also be included in the consultation process as we plan a world-class development with best practise in social, environmental and economic outcomes.”

Landcom and the Land and Property Management Authority have commenced analysis of coastal geomorphology and climate change impacts to assess the scale of the development which can be accommodated on this site. Further planning studies and community consultation will commence later this year should these early analysis prove positive.
Lakkari Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation has been established to manage the implementation of the agreement for Worimi and Birpai People.

Chairperson, Laurel Williams, said this agreement means recognition for the local Aboriginal community and their ancestors and the opportunity to provide cultural, social and employment opportunities for their children.

“We hope this is the first of many agreements between our community and local businesses and developers which will see Forster Tuncurry prosper as a whole,” Ms Williams said.