CROOKHAVEN LIGHTHOUSE TO BE RESTORED

The NSW Government has today announced $100,000 funding towards the restoration of the Crookhaven Lighthouse.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said the funding has been allocated from the Public Reserves Management Fund (PRMF).

“I have asked the Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) to work with Shoalhaven City Council, local community groups and the Department of Corrective Services to start the restoration work as soon as possible,” the Minister said.

“A scoping study to more accurately determine the extent of work required will commence by the middle of next month, and the restoration process by the end of August.”

The lighthouse is of historical significance because it:

- Was commissioned in 1904;
- Replaced a wooden structure 200 metres away on the beach, which had been part of the Shoalhaven Signal Station; and
- Incorporated the lantern from the former lighthouse on Cape St George which dates back to 1863.

The Shoalhaven River was an important trade route before the Princes Highway was established, sending farm produce to Sydney and bringing goods into the area.

These goods were often unloaded at Greenwell Point and the lighthouse provided guidance into the often treacherous river mouth.

Mr Kelly said while the lighthouse is currently on Council’s local heritage register, it may in fact qualify for State heritage listing.

“As soon as I became aware of this issue, I asked the NSW Heritage Office to commence an urgent investigation,” the Minister said.

Duty MLC for South Coast, Amanda Fazio, welcomed the announcement.

“The Keneally Government is committed to working with the local community to return this important local landmark to its former glory,” Ms Fazio said.