10-YEAR FUNDING COMMITMENT FOR KURNELL DUNE WORKS

The NSW Government has today given a 10-year funding commitment of around $1.34 million to the Kurnell Dune Works program at Cronulla.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said Kurnell Peninsula occupies a place of unique historical significance in Australia.

“It was the first landing site for Captain James Cook and the first port of call for the First Fleet,” the Minister said.

“The peninsula contains the largest coastal dune system in the Sydney region, covering approximately 93 hectares, and thousands of people visit the beach every year.

“Today, I have approved a grant of $108,029 to help meet the costs of the Kurnell Dune Works program this financial year.”

The project is carried out by the Land and Property Management Authority’s Soil Conservation Service in conjunction with Sutherland Shire Council on a cost-sharing basis.

Since it began in 1974, a range of work has been carried out in response to the severe erosion threats faced by the dunes from public access, weed infestation, feral animals, shell-grit, sand mining and development.

Member for Miranda, Barry Collier, welcomed the announcement.

Mr Kelly said this work plays a vital role in protecting a unique natural environment within Sydney.

“It also protects billions of dollars of infrastructure from inundation by ensuring the dunes are stable and better able to withstand storm damage,” the Minister said.

“The long-term maintenance and management of the dunes is vitally important to ensure their survival.”

Member for Miranda, Barry Collier welcomed the announcement.

“Sutherland Shire Council has identified the program as being of high importance and part of its Coastal Management Plan and has given a commitment to its share of the costs into the future,” Mr Collier said.

“I am pleased the Minister has matched that commitment by ensuring funding is provided to the program from the LPMA’s the Public Reserves Management Fund (PRMF) for the next decade.”