

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 824

asked on Wednesday, 25 May 2011

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MRS STUCKEY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (MS JONES)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the government's \$1.5m 2009 election promise to restore Kirra Beach—

- (1) Will the Minister provide an update on the progress, and the reporting of options for long-term solutions to prevent future sand build up, which was due in late 2010?
- (2) What negotiations have the Queensland Government undertaken with the New South Wales Government regarding the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project since this promise?

### ANSWER:

- (1) I am pleased to advise that the Government's \$1.5 million election commitment to take action on Kirra Beach - which had all but lost its world famous surf break after a buildup of sand - has been delivered. This initiative is now complete with significant beach scraping works undertaken to re-profile Kirra Beach.

Over the past 18-months 235,000 cubic metres of sand has been moved and Kirra is looking a lot more like the beach people remember.

On completion of the Kirra Beach restoration works at the end of November 2010, the beach adjacent to the Kirra Surf Life Saving Club was at its narrowest since May 2003.

Dune revegetation work has also been carried out by local company Gecko Regen. The Gold Coast City Council will continue to maintain the site for a further 12 months to ensure the restoration is a success.

The total cost of all works undertaken to date is \$1.06 million. The remaining unexpended funds have been allocated for the investigation of, and funding contributions towards, the longer-term operational enhancements of the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project to help ensure Kirra beach does not receive excessive amount of sand.

- (2) The Queensland Government has maintained regular ongoing negotiations with the New South Wales Government regarding the Tweed River Entrance Sand

Bypassing Project and any associated impacts on Kirra Beach since I became the relevant Minister in March 2009.

In July 2009 I met with my former New South Wales counterpart, the Honourable Tony Kelly MLC to canvas options for a joint approach to improving the operation of the bypassing project.

On my instructions the department has continued negotiations with the NSW Government with a view to developing longer term solutions to the problem of excessive sand build-up at Kirra and other southern Gold Coast beaches in consultation with key stakeholders and affected communities.

The bypassing project Advisory Committee made up of key local community members with an interest in sand management issues in the area is a key partner in this process. The Committee most recently met on 1 March 2011 to discuss outcomes of the Options Feasibility Report which investigated options to better manage the long-term highly variable natural sand supply rates to Kirra and other southern Gold Coast beaches.

The Advisory Committee members generally agreed with the feasibility options recommended in the report and recommended that broader community consultation should now be conducted. Feedback from this consultation will be incorporated into a final report to both NSW and Queensland Ministers recommending preferred feasibility options.