

Andrew Stoner MP

Deputy Premier of NSW Minister for Trade and Investment Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services Duncan Gay MLC Minister for Roads and Ports Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 4 March 2014

NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITS \$1.5 MILLION TO DREDGING

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Minister for Roads and Ports Duncan Gay today announced NSW Government funding of up to \$1.5 million for coastal dredging under the second phase of the Rescuing our Waterways program.

Mr Stoner and Mr Gay said the program, part of the Government's Sustainable Dredging Strategy, provided a coordinated approach to improve the accessibility and health of our waterways.

"These waterways are the lifeblood of many communities and the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government is pleased to be able to provide additional funding for dredging in estuaries neglected by the former Labor Government," Mr Stoner said.

"Rescuing our Waterways will deliver enhanced recreational boating access and continued viability for commercial vessel operators and their support industries, while providing flow-on benefits for tourism and local economies.

"Under the first phase of the program, over \$1.5 million was committed for dredging projects including Wallis Lake, Lake Cathie and at the Myall River.

"The Government will provide up to 50 per cent of the funding for each project under phase two, with local councils providing the remaining funds or in partnership with stakeholders."

Mr Gay said funds would be made available for both preconstruction activities and implementation.

"Councils will be asked to submit detailed dredging proposals and take charge of all aspects of project planning and execution.

"Local stakeholders, including local businesses or chambers of commerce and commercial operators or boating clubs, are also invited to apply.

"Demand for the dredging funding is expected to be extremely competitive. Priority will be given to applications that address the assessment criteria and are compatible with the estuary management planning process of the local council."

Full details are available at <u>www.crownland.nsw.gov.au</u> and applications must be received by 5pm, Monday 14 April 2014.

enquiries refer Paul Hickey in reply please quote 170-02

ballina

13 August 2013

Brett Phillips Crown Lands brett.phillips@lands.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Phillips

Re: Dredging of North Creek, Ballina

Thank you for your recent attendance at Council's Dredging Taskforce on 10 July 2013, along with Bert Hurtcum. Council recently gave consideration to matters raised at that meeting and subsequently resolved at our July 2013 Ordinary Council meeting to formally request Crown Lands to commence an expression of interest (EOI) process for the dredging of North Creek.

Based on the feedback you provided at the Taskforce meeting we are proposing that the EOI process include the area from the north western side of Missingham Bridge to the north western side of Prospect Bridge. Please find attached a location map for this indicative area. Council is of the opinion that the benefits from dredging for this location will be for environmental and reclamation purposes.

We look forward to your Department commencing this process and if you wish to discuss this matter further please call me.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hickey General Manager

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