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Tourist resort approved at Goodnight Island and Greenwell Point

The approval of a \$25 million integrated tourism and commercial development at Goodnight Island and Greenwell Point near Nowra will boost tourism and jobs on the South Coast consistent with the South Coast Regional Strategy, the NSW Department of Planning today announced.

The proposal, which is expected to generate around 150 construction and 60 operational jobs, underwent rigorous assessment, resulting in considerable amendments to protect biodiversity on the island as well as local neighbourhood amenity.

Deputy Director-General Richard Pearson said that the approved proposal spans three sites, including:

- A three storey building of 20 serviced apartments, 93 car spaces, retail area, resort reception and gym at Greenwell Point;
- A three storey building of seven serviced apartments, nine car spaces and retail tenancies at Greenwell Point; and
- A resort of 15 suites, 15 self contained pavilions, a villa, nine berth marina, amphitheatre and associated recreational services and infrastructure on Goodnight Island.

“The approved development will deliver a valuable tourism asset to the South Coast, which is already one of the State’s premier tourist destinations,” Mr Pearson said.

“At the same time, the Department’s assessment has resulted in sound environmental outcomes including the protection of local biodiversity and waterways.

“Following public exhibition, a number of key amendments were made to the proposal to address community and stakeholder concerns,” Mr Pearson said.

“For instance, a proposal for a helipad was not supported, so this component was removed from the proposal and helicopters may now be used for transport to the island in emergencies only.

“The buildings on the mainland sites were redesigned and reduced in scale so that they now integrate well with the surrounding village.

“In the island component, the number of cabins was reduced and the main building broken up into a series of pavilions separated by vegetation, which will achieve a better environmental outcome by minimising the number of trees to be removed.”

The proponent has also committed to rehabilitating the Island’s endangered Bangalay Sand Forest through revegetation, weed removal, restricting access to wetland areas, prohibiting domestic animals and landscaping with native species only.

Mr Pearson said that the Department also engaged independent consultants to assess the proposed on-site wastewater management system, following which the proposed system was amended to ensure compliance with relevant standards of effluent quality and protect nearby oyster leases.

“The final approval and imposed conditions will deliver an important new tourist facility offering new employment opportunities, along with the protection of local biodiversity and the oyster industry.”

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