Funding for Gosford green spaces

The NSW Government has granted $300,000 to Gosford City Council towards construction of a 1.5km long safe walking trail and to help plan for future green spaces, as part of the 2010 round of funding from the Metropolitan Greenspace Program (MGP).

Minister for Planning Tony Kelly said the funding has been allocated under the MGP, which since 1990 has provided nearly $30 million to more than 516 projects across the city.

The two Gosford City Council projects receiving funding are:

- $250,000 towards preservation of bushland and construction of the Casuarina Trail, a 1.5km long safe walking trail at Rumbalara Reserve.
- $50,000 to assist in preparing an Open Space and Leisure Services Strategic Plan to identify current usage of existing greenspace and highlight future opportunities for the areas, in partnership with other government agencies.

Funding under the MGP is provided to local councils on a dollar-for-dollar basis for specific regional significant projects, which help restore, conserve or enhance land in public ownership to provide high quality access and facilities for recreation purposes.

In particular since 2006, the MGP has made considerable progress on the delivery of the Regional Recreation Trails Framework which was outlined in the 2005 Metropolitan Strategy.

“This funding program is helping to realise the vision of an interconnected network of recreation trails from the city’s eastern shores to the base of the Blue Mountains,” Mr Kelly said.

“These recreation trails are typically either pedestrian and/or cycle pathways, often off-road, designed to link landscapes, natural features, facilities or urban centres.

“2010 is the fifth year where the program has focused on funding projects that develop the Regional Recreational Trails Framework, and more than $1.75 million of this year’s allocation has gone towards recreation trail related projects.

Since 2006, the MGP has funded over $9 million worth of regional trail related projects, which is equivalent to over 182.5km of planning and construction of trails across the Sydney Region.

Member for Gosford, Marie Andrews, welcomed the announcement and the NSW Government’s commitment to open space and trail projects that will deliver real benefits to the public.

“These projects will provide locals and visitors alike with a range of outstanding new facilities and vastly improved access to some of the city’s most valuable open space and recreational areas,” Ms Andrews said.

“I encourage eligible councils to continue to bring forward applications for high quality projects, such as those funded this year, so that we can make our wonderful city even more accessible to those who want to enjoy its natural beauty.”