



NEWS RELEASE

Premier of New South Wales

MORE MONEY FOR BETTER PARKS AND A GREENER SYDNEY

Sunday 7 February, 2010

Premier Kristina Keneally today announced \$2.4 million in grants to upgrade 17 Sydney parks, and a new online map to help you find and enjoy some of Sydney's hidden treasures.

The new website, 'Sydney Green Map' www.sydneygreenmap.nsw.gov.au, goes live today, providing a one stop shop for information about dozens of Sydney's recreational places, including parks, beaches, walking tracks, and reserves.

Premier Keneally visited Prospect today to launch the Sydney Green Map initiative.

"The website maps out locations right across Sydney, making it a useful tool for people who want to visit the outdoors and get more active," Ms Keneally said.

"The Lower Prospect Canal Reserve, which incorporates a 5km shared bicycle and walking track, is just one example of a local recreational space that the whole family can enjoy."

The new State Government grants will be directed towards local councils, who will match them on a dollar for dollar basis under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program.

Projects funded under this year's program include:

- \$332,000 to Ryde City Council for work including foreshore trails linking Bennelong Park to Kissing Point Park, and associated landscaping.
- \$220,000 to Blacktown City Council for the "Ropes Walk" recreation trail, including 800 metres of new concrete path and an additional 1 kilometre of sandstone pathways, along with bush regeneration and tree planting.
- \$175,000 to Sutherland Shire Council for the Oak Park extension and Esplanade upgrade, which will create a new park adjacent to the Esplanade in Cronulla, providing a network of green spaces along the route.

Premier Kristina Keneally said these projects will help establish a network of conservation and recreation spaces throughout the city.

"This funding, and this partnership with local government, is recognition that better outdoor spaces encourage healthier lifestyles," Ms Keneally said.

"These projects are helping realise our vision of a network of recreation trails from eastern shores to the base of the Blue Mountains."

Ms Keneally said this was also the rationale behind the online Sydney Green Map, which is being launched today.

"A lot of people, especially visitors to Sydney, simply don't know about all of Sydney's great walking tracks," Ms Keneally said.

“The Sydney Green Map is a great resource that will unlock knowledge about some incredible natural spaces across the greater Sydney region.”

Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, said the website will benefit everyone from locals to international tourists.

“Through this map, we want to provide more opportunities for families to get outdoors, get active, and enjoy our beautiful natural environment,” Mr Kelly said.

“Next weekend if you are looking for a park to visit with your family, I encourage you to use the website to find somewhere you have not explored before.”

To view the Sydney Green Map go to www.sydneygreenmap.nsw.gov.au

Some of the Western Sydney locations include:

- **Woodcroft Lake & Wetland** - Lake Woodcroft, situated 5km northwest of Blacktown off Richmond Road is a scenic lake and wetland surrounded by 5 hectares of open recreational space that provides a habitat for local wildlife and a venue for walking paths, runners, cyclists and picnic gatherings.
- **Doonside, Nurranginy Reserve, Knox Road** - Provides an idyllic parkland space catering for bushwalking trails, picnic and play areas, nature studies, lake and fountain display, blacksmith displays and special event space.
- **Lower Prospect Canal Reserve** - Incorporates a shared bicycle and walking track which extends about 5 km eastward of the base of prospect canal. The area has been extensively landscaped.
- **Blacktown Olympic Park** - offers a mix of both sporting infrastructure and surrounding natural bushland adjacent to the Western Sydney Parklands / Nurranginy Park creating a unique environment similar to Homebush.