



NEWS RELEASE

Premier of New South Wales

\$1.1 MILLION TO IMPROVE COASTAL WALKS AND ACCESS TO SYDNEY HARBOUR

Saturday, 2 January 2010

Premier Kristina Keneally today announced that the NSW Government will grant \$1.1 million to 16 projects that will improve Sydney Harbour and Sydney's coastal walks.

The new funding will deliver 4.7 kilometres of new walking and bike tracks, new jetties, boardwalks, viewing decks, picnic facilities, landscaping and bush regeneration.

Ms Keneally, who enjoyed part of the South Head to Clovelly walk today, said there's never been a better time to take the family out to enjoy Sydney's coast.

"New Year's Eve proves over and over that Sydney Harbour is not only a major international icon, it has special significance to every Sydneysider," Ms Keneally said.

"The Harbour is where we take visitors, it's our workplace, our playground, our trading port, our tourism drawcard, and our restaurant and shopping destination.

"We love our harbour and coast, and the NSW Government wants more families to be able to enjoy walks along it, bike rides around it, and picnics nearby it."

The NSW Government's \$1.1 million grant will be matched dollar for dollar by local councils to deliver 4.7 kilometres of new walking and cycling tracks, park improvements and jetties.

The money will be delivered under the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program. Councils and community organisations apply for SSHAP funding through the Department of Planning.

"Since 2003, this NSW Government program has delivered \$9 million for 160 projects including 36 kilometres of new or upgraded walking and cycling tracks," Ms Keneally said.

"That has helped more families get out and about outdoors, enjoying our beautiful city."

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said local communities will benefit from this program.

"New cycleways, additional picnic shelters and walking track upgrades will promote a healthy lifestyle and encourage more people to spend time outdoors on our beautiful harbour," Mr Kelly said.

"The SSHAP is yet another example of state and local government working together for the benefit of NSW communities and I look forward to seeing our residents enjoy these fantastic new facilities."

SHARING SYDNEY HARBOUR ACCESS PROGRAM GRANTS

\$95,000 to Balmain Sailing Club - Access Project

The project aims to reconfigure the existing facilities to provide a new floating pontoon and ramps off the end of the current wharf. This facility will be publicly accessible. Public access is also to be provided through the adjacent park to the new facility with support from Leichhardt Council. The aim of the project is to improve the Club's launching facilities and provide public access to the waterfront for activities such as small boat launching and fishing.

\$15,000 to City of Canada Bay Council - Thompson Street Wharf Feasibility Study

The heritage listed structure services moorings in Iron Cove Bay and due to its dilapidated state, requires immediate assessment to plan for its future. The undertaking of a Feasibility Study for Thompson Street Wharf will aim to develop options for the wharf, which may include significant restoration works.

\$20,500 to Hunters Hill Council - Dinghy Racks at Murray Prior Reserve

The project aims to improve access and use of the Parramatta River foreshore at Murray Prior Reserve. Works include installation of dinghy storage racks accommodating 12 dinghy racks, upgrade to the foreshore walking track and associated bush regeneration.

\$134,410 to Hunters Hill Council - Riverglade to River, The Final Link

The project aims to complete the final link for pedestrians and cyclists through Riverglade Reserve along Tarban Creek. The new shared pathway will be constructed from Gladesville Road to Earnshaw Street, Hunters Hill. Associated works include installation of seating, directional and interpretative signage and bush regeneration works.

\$30,020 to Lane Cove Council - Blackman Park Masterplan and Park Upgrade

The project aims to improve Blackman Park in accordance with the Draft Masterplan. This involves an upgraded path network around the picnic area, including an extension of path access from the picnic area to the existing beach inlet on Lane Cove River. The proposal will also upgrade the existing picnic area including new picnic settings, barbecues and shelter and associated bush regeneration. The project aims to increase public access by improving the interface between the parkland and Lane Cove River.

\$14,300 to Leichhardt Council - Seawall Access Creation, Leichhardt Park

The project aims to create an opening and steps in the existing seawall at Leichhardt Park to facilitate improved access for recreational boaters and other recreational users to the Iron Cove foreshore. The location of the seawall opening is proposed in the vicinity of the newly constructed pontoon, which was also supported by an Access Program grant.

\$88,500 to Mosman Council and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust - Rawson Park Georges Heights Pathway Links and Parkland Improvements

This partnership project aims to establish a cycleway and pedestrian connection between Rawson Oval and Georges Heights. It is proposed to construct a network of shared paths which connect areas of high usage including the playing fields, netball courts, Rawson Oval and the commercial and community precinct at Georges Heights.

\$93,105 to North Sydney Council for Primrose Park Bushland Rehabilitation

The project involves a major upgrade to 1280 metres of bushland walking track which links Folly Point through Primrose Park bushland to the tennis courts. Upgrade will also occur to secondary link tracks to Lambert Street and Grafton Street, Cammeray. The works will significantly improve useability of the popular track and also involves bush regeneration work and installation of interpretative signage.

\$150,000 to Parramatta City Council - Parramatta Valley Cycleway

The project will create two new missing links of the Parramatta Valley Cycleway, located along the northern side of the Parramatta River. Works include the construction of two 450 metres long sections of shared pedestrian and cycleway paths between Park Road and Pike Street at Rydalmere and between Waratah Street and Wharf Road at Ermington. The project also incorporates seating, native plantings and directional signage.

\$12,810 to City of Ryde Council for Balun Reserve Beach Access Improvements

The purpose of the project is to provide improved public access for recreational boaters and other recreational users to the beach from Balun Reserve. Works include construction of sandstone block steps within the existing sandstone wall to provide improved access from the Reserve to the existing beach on the Parramatta River foreshore.

\$100,000 to Ryde City Council for Ryde Riverwalk - Kissing Point and Bennelong Park, Putney

The project aims to undertake significant upgrade works to two foreshore parks along the Parramatta River. In accordance with the Ryde Riverwalk Masterplan, works in Kissing Point and Bennelong Parks include pathway construction, boardwalks, viewing decks, planting, artworks and picnic facilities. The Access Program grant will contribute towards the network of foreshore pathways.

\$40,000 to Strathfield Council for Powells Creek Open Space Corridor - Provision of Open Space Facilities

The aim of the project is to provide public domain improvements along the Powells Creek Corridor, a reserve which links Strathfield Centre to Sydney Olympic and Bicentennial Parklands. Improvements include seating, shelters, picnic settings and vegetation works in accordance with the Powells Creek Masterplan. These works will build on other Access Program supported projects in the Corridor, including creek crossings and pedestrian and cycleway paths.

\$8,965 to the Walking Volunteers towards the Parramatta River Walk

The project aims to map a continuous walking route along the foreshores of the Parramatta River from Gladesville Bridge to North Parramatta. The three maps will be ready for web publication on the Department of Planning and Walking Coastal Sydney websites for use of recreational walkers. It is anticipated that the maps will form publishable brochures in the near future and becoming part of the current series of Walking Sydney Harbour and Coastal Sydney brochures available at www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au.

\$105,000 to Woollahra Council - Lyne Park Foreshore Pathway Improvements

The project aims to improve access around the Harbour foreshore by establishing continuous sealed and safe access around Lyne Park. Works at this stage (stage 2) include the construction of a new pedestrian walkway between the Rose Bay Sea Planes and Victory Avenue. These works will continue the Stage 1 works from Rose Bay promenade to Rose Bay Ferry Wharf, also supported by the Access Program.

\$100,000 to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water for the Harbour Scenic Walk Upgrade and Establishment

The project aims to improve a significant section of the iconic Manly Scenic Walkway. Works include a track survey, sandstone steps, drain installation and track pavement repair along the walk to improve public access. Improvements to handrailing at key lookouts at Dobroyd Head will also be undertaken.

\$24,300 to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water for Bantry Bay Jetty Repairs

The project includes the repair of piling to the existing timber jetty to maintain safe access to the eastern shore precinct of Bantry Bay. The works will allow continued access to recreational boating facilities in Middle Harbour while maintaining opportunities for future improvements.