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MEDIA RELEASE

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LORD HOWE ISLAND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN APPROVED

Erosion protection and the construction of necessary new infrastructure facilities have been made easier on Lord Howe Island, after the approval of a Local Environmental Plan.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the changes will also continue to protect and maintain the exceptional world heritage values of the Lord Howe Island group.

The key elements of the changes allow for:

- Erosion control works to be undertaken and approved by the board, protecting the island from severe storms;
- Subdivision of land for public purposes, following development consent, to allow local infrastructure (such as a tsunami warning system) to be proposed;
- Some minor land zoning changes after a public land analysis and community consultation; and
- The island's current regional environmental plan (REP) to be changed to a local environmental plan (LEP).

Mr Kelly said the new Lord Howe Island LEP proposed no change to the existing policy limiting dwelling numbers to 25 over a 20-year period, along with allowing the board to progress its ballot land release policy.

“At the same time, they update planning provisions for necessary infrastructure and also for some of the settlement land on the island,” the Minister said.

Lord Howe Island was recognised as a world heritage site in 1982 and a marine national park was declared by the NSW Government in 1999 for the waters surrounding the island group.
