Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, today announced the Five Lands Walk program for 2010.

Mr Kelly said since its inception in 2006, the annual walk through MacMasters Beach, Copacabana, Avoca Beach, North Avoca and Terrigal has grown to embrace the culture and beliefs of its residents, Aboriginal custodians and diverse ethnic communities.

"This year the walk is timed to occur on or shortly after the winter solstice - July 3 – and will also celebrate the cultures of Brazil, Greece, the Philippines, South Africa and South Pacific," the Minister said.

"The unique nine kilometre walking route connects people to people and people to places.

"With more than 3,000 participants last year, I am sure the wonderful opportunity to observe the coastal scenery, cultural displays and performances by local residents and Aboriginal community will only get bigger this year."

Mr Kelly commended Gosford City Council for its commitment to making this community event a success.

"Its recent NSW Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) Cultural Award for the 5 Lands Walk is testament to its work in forging collaborations between mainstream Australian, Aboriginal and ethnic cultures," the Minister said.

The event is managed by 5 Lands Walk Inc, a not-for-profit organisation, including representatives from each of the Five Lands, Gosford City Council, the Aboriginal community and Central Coast Tourism.

In 2008, the NSW Government provided $110,000 to Gosford City Council to fund natural and cultural heritage studies as well as infrastructure plans, with the aim of making the walk a major regional walking trail.

The funding was provided as part of the NSW Government’s Metropolitan Greenspace Program.