24 September, 2010

A FURTHER $1.3 MILLION FOR COASTLINE CYCLEWAY PROJECTS

A further $1.3 million in NSW Government funding has been offered to local councils to continue construction of the NSW Coastline Cycleway.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, today opened the latest round of grants under the NSW Coastline Cycleway Program, coinciding with NSW Bike Week, with successful councils offered funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

"Every year Australians are buying more bicycles than cars and, in coastal communities, cycling is often the easiest and quickest form of transport," the Minister said.

"This program is making cycling on the coast even easier and safer and by building better cycling infrastructure we are creating a valuable asset for the community.

"Over the past seven years, the program has provided councils with $9.3 million to construct 93 kilometres of cycleway for the benefit of local communities.

"It’s a great example of State and local government working together.

“These facilities will create jobs, encourage healthy lifestyles and attract tourists."

A total of 23 non-metropolitan coastal councils along a 1,400 kilometre route, from Tweed Shire in the north to Bega Valley Shire in the south, can apply for funding under the program.

Applications from councils are open until 19 November, 2010.

Successful projects in the 2009-10 round of funding included:

- $175,000 to Byron Shire Council for a 440-metre extension of pedestrian path and cycleway along Ewingsdale Road, immediately west of Byron Bay;
- $172,000 to Gosford City Council for a 590-metre extension of the Woy Woy – Ettalong Beach Cycleway at Ettalong Beach;
- $167,500 to Bellingen Shire Council for 1.3 kilometres of pedestrian path and cycleway leading south from Urunga township to Hungry Head;
- $150,000 to Ballina Shire Council for a 1.2-kilometre extension of the Ballina CBD Cycleway between Regatta Avenue and Kerr Street; and
- $128,950 to Great Lakes Council for 1.4 kilometres of pedestrian path and cycleway to complete The Lakes Way Cycleway through Forster-Tuncurry.

Further information on the NSW Coastline Cycleway Program, including how to apply, can be found at the Department of Planning website www.planning.nsw.gov.au and clicking on “Programs & Services” then “Funding Programs”.