



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Lands
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

14 February, 2011

Government funding improves access to open space and recreation trails

The NSW Government has granted nearly \$2.5 million worth of funding to 26 separate open space and regional trail projects around Sydney, to assist in the creation of a network of green spaces and trails.

Planning Minister Tony Kelly said projects being funded include the construction of elevated walkways through bushland, a scenic foreshore walk north of Sydney, access steps to a popular scuba diving location and an innovative boardwalk over an existing seawall.

“This funding program is helping to realise the vision of an interconnected network of recreation trails from the city’s eastern shores to the base of the Blue Mountains,” Mr Kelly said.

“These recreation trails are typically either pedestrian and/or cycle pathways, often off-road, designed to link landscapes, natural features, facilities or urban centres.

The funding has been allocated under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program (MGP), a long-running open-space grants program that has provided nearly \$30 million to more than 516 projects across Sydney since 1990.

Since 2006, the MGP has made considerable progress on delivering the *Sydney Metropolitan Regional Recreation Trails Framework*, which was outlined in the 2005 Metropolitan Strategy.

“2010 is the fifth year where the program has focused on funding projects that develop the *Regional Recreational Trails Framework*, and more than \$1.75 million of this year’s allocation has gone towards recreation trail related projects.

“This will provide funding for the planning or construction of approximately 16 kilometres of regional trails.”

Since 2006, the MGP has funded over \$9 million worth of regional trail related projects, which is equivalent to over 182.5km of planning and construction of trails across the Sydney Region.

“The ongoing funding and implementation of the recreation trail program is a good example of the NSW Government both undertaking and delivering long-term planning for Sydney,” Mr Kelly said.

This year, Lane Cove Council is being committed \$74,950 to construct 1.5km of elevated walkways through Lane Cove Bushland Park, upgrade signage and undertake bush regeneration.

Some of the other significant projects being funded through the MGP this year include:



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Lands
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

- \$62,500 to Hornsby Shire Council to create a 600m foreshore walk within McKell Park, extending from Brooklyn to Parsley Bay.
- \$60,000 to Hornsby Shire Council to restore and conserve historic sandstone steps built during the Great Depression (1933-1935) and protect surrounding bushland. The trail will link to the Great North Walk and the Berowra Valley Regional Park.
- \$40,000 to Ku-ring-gai Council to undertake detail design work provide off-road mountain bike cycling at Golden Jubilee Oval, Wahroonga.
- \$200,000 to Ryde City Council for detailed design of the strategic link between Bill Mitchell Park and Glades Bay Park. The project includes construction of an innovative boardwalk connection over the existing seawall to Glades Bay Park.
- \$12,500 to Ryde City Council to undertake detailed design of an 800m pedestrian bush track within Glades Bay Park, which will improve access along the Lane Cover River foreshore.
- \$200,000 to Sutherland Shire Council to provide access steps into Shiprock Reserve, which is a significant point of entry for the scuba diving community.
- \$75,000 to Manly Council to enhance the popular Manly Lagoon playground, including new play equipment, a bike/ scooter track, seating and planting.

Funding under the MGP is provided to local councils on a dollar-for-dollar basis for specific regionally significant projects, which help restore, conserve or enhance land in public ownership to provide high quality access and facilities for recreation purposes.

Mr Kelly congratulated this year's grant recipients under the program and commended them for their commitment to open space and trail projects that will deliver real benefits to the public.

"These projects will provide locals and visitors alike with a range of outstanding new facilities and vastly improved access to some of the city's most valuable open space and recreational areas," Mr Kelly said.

"I encourage eligible councils to continue to bring forward applications for high quality projects, such as those funded this year, so that we can make our wonderful city even more accessible to those who want to enjoy its natural beauty."

A new report has also been released today that updates progress on the rollout of the *Sydney Metropolitan Regional Recreation Trails Framework*.

The report outlines the progress on implementing the trail network and identifies missing links and opportunities to improve the network in the future, particularly in growth areas like the North West and South West Growth Centres.

The updated report will be made available on the Department of Planning's website.
