



THE HON GARY GRAY AO MP

Special Minister of State

BRAD HAZZARD

NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

THE HON PETER GARRETT MP

Member for Kingsford Smith

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sydney gets a new coastal National Park

The Australian Government today transferred the first parcel of land to create a beautiful new coastal National Park near Sydney.

Special Minister of State Gary Gray and the NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard signed documents for the handover of 17.7 hectares of heritage-listed bushland at Malabar Headland, 12km south east of Sydney.

“This honours a commitment made in August 2010 by Prime Minister Julia Gillard and the Member for Kingsford Smith, Peter Garrett, to create a 70-hectare coastal National Park,” Mr Gray said.

“Later this year, the Commonwealth will transfer to NSW another 50 hectares of land on the eastern and southern edge which is already zoned as National Park but not yet declared for that use. Both parcels of land will be preserved in perpetuity.”

Another 100 hectares of public open space, between the two parcels of land, will also be preserved in perpetuity – meaning a total of 177 hectares will become permanently available for public use.

“Today’s agreement confirms the commitment of the Australian and New South Wales governments to ensure this important asset is preserved for the people of NSW in perpetuity, and in fact, we will guarantee it through retrospective legislation to be introduced to Federal Parliament,” Mr Gray said.

“In thanking the NSW Government, Randwick City Council and local community groups such as the Friends of Malabar Headland for their work in helping establish this park, I would also like to acknowledge the Federal Member for Kingsford Smith, Peter Garrett, for his hard work in supporting the project to benefit the people of south-eastern Sydney and NSW.”

Mr Garrett said that returning Malabar Headland to the people of NSW was his highest priority as a local Member.

“Today’s transfer is of enormous significance, not only to the south-east Sydney community who will be using and enjoying the area for years to come, but to the nation,” Mr Garrett said.

“Located so close to the city and with such high environmental and cultural values, Malabar Headland National Park will now provide enormous health and recreational benefits to all those who visit.”

Mr Hazzard said the coastal park was steeped in history and featured one of the largest remaining stands of the endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Shrub.

“We will be protecting the largest remaining areas of untouched bushland between Botany Bay and South Head.”

Mr Hazzard said the western side of the headland had outstanding possibilities for picnickers, families and activities such as walking.

NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker also welcomed the handover.

“The headland is home to 283 plant species and 170 bird species,” she said. “It has important natural and heritage values, including World War II defence sites.”

The creation of the park was a result of years of effort involving the NSW and Australian governments, Randwick City Council, and local community groups such as the Friends of Malabar Headland.

NSW now has more than 850 national parks and reserves across the state for the enjoyment of NSW residents. Almost 9 per cent of NSW is reserved, covering an area of more than 7 million hectares – including 40 per cent of the NSW coastline.

The Ministers signed documents to transfer Lot 102 on the north-western edge of Malabar Headland from Commonwealth ownership to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for safekeeping.

Malabar Headland comprises three parcels of land: Lot 102 (17.7 hectares - being transferred to NSW today); Lot 2 (about 50 hectares) on the eastern and southern edge of the headland, which is currently being remediated and will be transferred later this year; and Lot 101 (100 hectares) public open space in the middle of the two parcels of land.

Media contact:	John Arthur (Gary Gray)	0419 991 261
	Mark Skelsey (Brad Hazzard)	0407 851 095
	Cara Davis (Peter Garrett)	0419 651 730

BACKGROUND:

Malabar Headland has been used for several purposes since European settlement, ranging from farming and recreational shooting to military use as a training facility, and a base and defensive position during World War II. Lot 101 was previously used for sand mining and the disposal of waste, which is up to 25 metres (five to six storeys) in depth. Malabar more recently been used by a number of organisations for recreational purposes including shooting, horse riding, bush walking, jogging, bird watching, fishing, model plane flying and bush regeneration. More information <http://www.finance.gov.au/property/property/malabarheadland.html>