



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING SECURED FOR SHOALHAVEN RIVER STUDY

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today announced the NSW Government and Shoalhaven City Council will together contribute \$100,000 to investigate options to improve river water flow in the Shoalhaven Heads area.

Minister Hodgkinson said that this study will be the next step in improving water flow of the Shoalhaven River and maximise public amenity for the popular public space.

“The Shoalhaven and South Coast has some of the most popular recreational fishing areas in NSW, attracting keen fishers from near and far generating \$395 million in economic output each year,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The NSW Government is supporting this input into the local economy by commissioning a study to look at ways we can combat the effects of the large amount of suspended sediments in the lower reaches of the Shoalhaven River, which settle near the township of Shoalhaven Heads creating a sand barrier between the river and the ocean.

“This is not a problem of water quality, but of looking at options to better utilise the Shoalhaven River for the benefit of the local community.

“It is important we make the right decisions about the future of this important natural resource, whilst not compromising other parts of this complex estuarine system such as Greenwell Point and Crookhaven Heads.”

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward said this funding is an important step forward in maximising the usability of this popular public space.

“I’ve worked closely with the Minister and her Department to secure the funds for this project and to pursue this very exciting opportunity for Shoalhaven Heads.

“The Shoalhaven River waterway is important to our local community, and I am pleased that we’ve secured funding to keep the ball rolling in finding a solution to the water flow problem.”

Shoalhaven City Council Mayor, Joanna Gash said this is great news for the local community, with funding already sourced for works at Lake Conjola, Sussex Inlet and Huskisson through the NSW Government’s Rescuing our Waterways program.

“I would like to thank Member for Kiama, Gareth Ward and Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson following today’s funding announcement,” said Cllr Gash.

“The Shoalhaven River is one of the most picturesque, pristine and iconic waterways on the South Coast.

“This funding will allow Council to undertake the necessary steps to ensure the long term health and sustainability of the lower reaches of the Shoalhaven River.”

Ms Hodgkinson said this is a commitment to the people of the Shoalhaven area, in addition to the recently announced Offshore Artificial Reef and just deployed Fish Aggregating Devices.