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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Environmental works to benefit all

July 31, 2008

Penrhyn Estuary and Foreshore Beach will be big winners in the Port Botany expansion project with extensive environmental works to be carried out.

Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi said the Estuary and beach are currently degraded and have huge potential for enhancement.

“Penrhyn Estuary is a locally significant site for migratory shorebirds and contains saltmarsh and seagrass habitat,” Mr Tripodi said.

“We are committed to protecting and enhancing the habitats as well as making the area accessible to the local community.”

Key environmental plans include expanding the saltmarsh and seagrass habitats to attract migratory birds, additional fish and marine life.

Other initiatives will be the re-use of stormwater run off from the amenities building and boat ramp and solar lighting along the cycleway.

Some environmental enhancements have already taken place with mangrove trees transplanted to sites in Southern Sydney.

“We needed to remove the mangroves at Penrhyn Estuary to help create the saltmarsh habitat and Estuary lookout,” Mr Tripodi said.

“Sydney Ports actively sought new homes for the mangroves and has formed partnerships with a number of organisations who have transplanted them.”

Mangrove seedlings and plants less than one metre in height have been removed manually and transplanted to two sites in the Sutherland Shire; the banks of Port Hacking River and Alford's Point on the Georges River.

The projects are being completed by Sutherland Shire Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), NSW Maritime and Abigroup.

“These positive goals and environmental enhancements will be achieved thanks to the expansion of Port Botany,” Mr Tripodi said.

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