

**Questions relating to the Lands portfolio from Budget Estimates Committee hearing 14 October 2008**

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** How much extra public boat and parking area will there be over what there is now?

**Answer:**

*It must be noted that the original Ariadne concept differs from the planning document Port Macquarie Hastings Council currently has on exhibition through its Foreshore Masterplan and the Settlement City Structure Plan. Questions in respect of parking etc proposed by Council in that planning document must be directed to that Council. The Council plan proposes no net loss in public open space and the drystack is limited to part 3 and part 4 storey.*

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** Would you be able to take my next question on notice? From your earlier answer I do not think you have the information available. There is genuine community concern that the area available to the public to park, that is, recreational boat users, will be greatly diminished. What public parking spaces will be available for cars and boats under the Ariadne proposal?

**Mr WATKINS:** We will take that question on notice. I want to put it on the record now, because it is already on the public record, that there is no net reduction. In fact, there is an improvement and an enhancement.

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** Could you provide me with those figures? What is available to the public now?

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** Just to clarify what you want, you talked about boat parking and car spaces.

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** Public parking.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** Including other recreational areas. Are you talking only about open space?

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** Public parking.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** Do you want the total net figure in percentages, whether it is the same, slightly more or slightly less?

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** That issue is resulting in a lot of community concern. One way or another those answers should be forthcoming to help the community with this major development.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** Let me repeat that the director general said that overall there would be no net loss of public space.

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** As in what type of public space?

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** I was trying to elicit that information from you. You started talking about cars and boats.

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** For example, we have just gone through a long weekend in Port Macquarie. How many boats and cars were able to use that facility?

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** You want the number of boats and cars; you do not want square metres?

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** That is right.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** If there were two fewer boats that would result in 100 square metres of additional space for people.

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** Whatever is the outcome of that.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** Do you also want percentages for the recreational area?

**The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY:** Yes.

**Answer:**

*Existing parking at this location is uncontrolled. The Department has previously estimated existing maximum parking at approximately 60 car and boat trailer parks with approximately 12 standard car parks. No count was made of cars and boat trailers using the car park over the October 2008 long weekend.*

*The original Ariadne concept proposed construction of a 4 storey drystack in 2 stages. During Stage 1 available public parking included 89 car and boat trailer parks and 59 standard car parks. With the take up of local boat storage in the drystack Stage 2 reduces the need for the same level of parking and provides 71 car and boat trailer parks and 24 standard car parks.*

*Stage 1 will therefore provide, approximately, an extra 29 car and boat trailer parks and 47 standard car parks over what currently exists. Stage 2 will provide approximately 11 extra car and boat trailer parks and 12 standard car parks over what currently exists.*

**The Hon. DUNCAN GAY:** Minister, is it correct—it certainly is my understanding—that in February this year you announced the establishment of the Harrington Beach State Park. Can you tell the Committee the exact area that is covered by this proposed park?

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** I will have to take that on notice because we have not got it here.

**Answer:**

*The area of the Harrington Beach State Park is 433 hectares.*

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** I am sorry, I do not wish to interrupt, but that really is not an answer to my question. My question related to the \$260,000 that was provided for the Hunter study. I asked where that money came from.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** I was getting to that because, as I said, one of the partners in the study is the—

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** The Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** That is right, the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment

**Answer:**

*The \$260,000 comes from the “Catchment Action NSW” program. This will be enhanced by the key collaborator in the project, Hunter Central Rivers CMA, to the tune of \$150,000, mainly to cover the costs of getting some critical works on the ground on reserves currently managed by the Hunter RLPB.*

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** You have said that funding will come from the catchment action funds. I believe that once the Hunter study is completed, that will be used for a study of the reserves and network across New South Wales. Where will the funding for that broader study come from?

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** I am sorry; I should clarify that. That \$260,000 is actually coming from the Rees Government, and it is complemented by other funds.

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** What proportion is coming from the Government?

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** Well, \$260,000 is coming from the Government.

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** It is being complemented by other sources of funding?

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** From the Catchment Action Group.

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** What proportion is that?

**Mr WATKINS:** We do not have the figures here.

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** Could you provide them to the Committee?

**Mr WATKINS:** If you wish.

**Answer:**

*The Hunter pilot will develop the methodology for the assessment of TSRs. This is the key to the roll out of the assessment process state wide as TSRs are ceded back to Lands. The responsibility for overall routine assessment will rest with the Land Management program staffing the regions of crown Lands Division, who have the required technical skills to complete this assessment.*

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** I briefly turn to Wallaga Beach and the old camping ground. As you know, the old camping ground is being dedicated for public recreation but it is also an Aboriginal heritage site that is due for hand back at a date yet to be determined or decided. The only access to the beach.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** Has it got a different name? I cannot find it.

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** The dedication is 580016.

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** Where is it?

**Ms SYLVIA HALE:** Wallaga Beach runs from the mouth of Wallaga Lake up to Mystery Bay on the South Coast. The only access to this beach is via road reserves that run through private property and wetlands. I understand that the Department of Lands has offered for sale the road reserve that runs down to the old camping ground and has approved the sale in principle. It has forwarded to the applicants, P L and H J Blessington, an application to purchase it. Will the Minister make this purchase conditional upon formal permanent access to the old camping ground being put in place?

**The Hon. TONY KELLY:** I do not have any details of that so I will take it on notice and get back to you.

**Answer:**

*I can confirm that as a result of an initiative by the Department of Lands to close unnecessary Crown public roads, an application was received from the owners of freehold Lot 2 DP 826655 at Akolele (near Tilba Tilba on the Far South Coast) for the closure and purchase of an unconstructed Crown road through and adjoining their lot.*

*Public access to this part of the coastline including the Crown land dedicated for Public Recreation, referred to as the "old camping ground" will not be affected as there is currently no formed track along the road to be closed. This is not the only access in this location, as there are two other formed Council public road access points – one to the north (Sherringham Lane) and one to the south (Serendip Lane).*

*I am advised that officers of the Department of Lands recently inspected the Crown road and established that it was not practical to pass along the entire length of the Crown road by foot, vehicle or other means to gain access to the foreshore. It was found that access to the foreshore could only possibly be gained by trespassing on the adjoining private land and using a bridge on this land to cross one of the creeks, or by creating environmental damage to gain access along the unformed road.*

*The application to close the road has been approved on the basis that*

- a) it is fenced within the adjoining land,*
- b) is not constructed,*
- c) does not provide foreshore access,*
- d) there are no proposals to provide formal public access,*
- e) alternative Council public road access is available*
- f) the environmental attributes of the existing State Environmental Planning Policy 14 Wetlands area (which straddles the Crown Road) will be retained*

*It is not necessary to make the sale conditional upon formal access to the old camping ground because it already has legal access via the Council public road system.*

*In relation to the comment that the land for public recreation has Aboriginal heritage and is due for hand back at a date yet to be determined or decided, I can advise that the land is the subject of a Claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.*

*This legislation provides a mechanism for determination as to whether land is granted to a Local Aboriginal Land Council. In this instance it will be necessary to investigate, in accordance with the legislation, whether the land is being lawfully used and occupied, or is needed or likely to be needed for an essential public purpose.*

**Hon Tony Kelly MLC**  
Minister for Lands