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BUDGET DELIVERS FOR PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERWAYS

Showgrounds across the state will get a facelift thanks to the 2019-20 NSW Budget, with the Government investing in maintenance and improvements.

Minister for Water, Housing and Property Melinda Pavey today announced that the Budget would also provide funding for public land and coastal infrastructure across the State.

“The NSW Government is committed to the sustainable management of the state’s Crown lands including parks, reserves, roads and cemeteries for the benefit of our communities and the protection of our natural resources,” Mrs Pavey said.

“Crown lands cover about 42 per cent of the State, providing for community, commercial and recreational needs so we need to look after them for both current and future generations.”

Some Budget highlights supporting Crown land improvements in 2019-20 include:

- \$30 million for coastal infrastructure improvements including the upgrading of breakwaters and public jetties and dredging of silted sand from waterways to ensure safe navigational access for commercial and recreational vessels.
- \$17 million for the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund to provide grants and loans to improve and maintain public reserves including walking trails, recreational infrastructure, and environmental initiatives including pest and weed control.
- \$9.2 million for infrastructure maintenance and improvements to community showgrounds.
- \$2.3 million for bushfire protection including maintaining fire trails and creating asset protection zones on public lands.
- \$2.6 million for the remediation of sites contaminated from historical industrial use.

“Showgrounds are an essential part of all regional communities, being the place where events like fetes, horse shows and markets are held to bring a community together. These events play an important role in bringing together communities,” Mrs Pavey said.

“This year’s Budget ensures local events continue, communities have a place to get together and our farmers continue to enjoy social outings particularly during this time of drought.

Mrs Pavey said improvements will be made to coastal infrastructure in locations from Eden, Ulladulla, Bermagui and Wollongong in the south through to Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Crowdy Head, Wooli, Camden Haven and Laurieton in the north.

“Protecting and enhancing Crown land is essential for our community well-being and we want to also support business, tourism, recreation and biodiversity as well as recognise the cultural importance of our land to the Aboriginal people of NSW.”

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