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## **NSW & QLD GOVERNMENTS MOVE ON TWEED SAND BYPASS OPTIONS**

The NSW and Queensland Governments have today released a report on public consultation over future options for improving the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project.

Ms Alison Stone, the Chairperson of the project's NSW/Queensland Intergovernmental Working Group that is responsible for project planning said the consultation was undertaken to determine public attitudes on both sides of the Tweed River concerning four options to enhance the long term sand bypassing operations.

The four options were:

1. A new sand pumping outlet at North Kirra;
2. Alternative disposal locations for dredged sand;
3. A "one off" delivery of dredged sand to Kingscliff Beach for beach nourishment purposes; and
4. Sand "backpassing" to the south of the bypassing jetty along Letitia Beach.

"Following consideration of the public feedback, the NSW and Queensland Governments have reached agreement on the next stage of the project by directly pursuing two of the four options," Ms Stone said.

"The two options are:

- Disposing dredged sand at deep water locations offshore between Point Danger and Coolangatta and occasionally along Bilinga and Tugun beaches, and
- Investigating backpassing to deliver some sand to the south of the Tweed River entrance at northern Letitia Beach.

"The Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project has made the river entrance safer to navigate and delivered sand to several southern Gold Coast beaches, and it's important we build on the experience gained through a decade of operation and get the next stage of the project right.

"It is clear there is community concern about some of the proposed sand disposal outcomes and the Governments have taken those concerns on board, together with the advice of experts, before commencing more detailed investigations of the two favoured options.

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"In addition, the Governments have determined that they are agreeable to Tweed Shire Council investigating the option of removing sand from the Tweed River and placing it at Kingscliff to offset erosion, after there were no objections raised during public consultation."

Ms Stone said the first option – a new sand pumping outlet at North Kirra – won't be pursued at this time.

"The option of a new sand pumping outlet at North Kirra will not be pursued at this time although it is not being ruled out as a possible longer-term option," Ms Stone said.

"This is the most expensive option and would likely be used on a limited basis because of its impact on the sand supply to other beaches.

"The project plans to seek approval for alternative disposal locations for dredged sand, including in deeper water offshore between Point Danger and Coolangatta.

"Approvals will also be sought for occasional sand placement offshore from Bilinga and Tugun beaches, about three kilometres north of the current sand placement areas.

"The Governments support in principle the introduction of a capacity to "backpass" sand to allow sand to be placed south of the Tweed River entrance at northern Letitia Beach.

"This option requires further investigations to confirm designs and operational details and will be an important measure to help the project meet its objective of ensuring that the right amount of sand is delivered to southern Gold Coast beaches.

"We will keep the public informed as investigations proceed." Ms Stone said

The full report on the community consultation can be read on the project website [www.tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au)

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