The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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PUBLIC UPDATE OF OPTIONS TO UPGRADE COFFS HARBOUR NORTHERN BREAKWATER

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner today announced a community information session that will explain the options to upgrade the Coffs Harbour Northern Breakwater.

“Four options are being evaluated by consultants GHD to address public safety and property risks due to waves overtopping the northern breakwater,” Mr Stoner said.

“These options include constructing a submerged berm (shelf) along the toe of the existing breakwater, raising the existing crest height, constructing a wave deflection barrier, and constructing a submerged artificial reef in front of the Northern Breakwater.

“The feasibility of each option is being investigated and 3D numerical and physical modelling will test the preferred option once it is selected.

“While the possibility of an artificial reef has generated some interest in the community, none of the options can be confirmed until the study is completed, costs assessed and available funding has been determined.”

Member for Coffs Harbour Andrew Fraser said a community information session was planned at Shop 2, 2 Marina Drive on Wednesday 6 November, 2013, between 4pm and 8pm.

“Project personnel will be available to answer questions. Poster displays of the options will also allow the public to understand the strengths and weaknesses of each one of them,” Mr Fraser said.

“The options study aims to provide a realistic and cost-effective solution to address waves overtopping the Northern Breakwater and the risks to public safety, property and maritime facilities during ocean storms.

“The breakwater is extremely popular with the public and public access and visual amenity to it will be taken into consideration as part of the study.

“It is anticipated the study, which includes identification of a preferred option, preliminary design and costings, will be completed by early to mid-2014, depending on the physical modelling program.”