



# **The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP**

## **Minister for Primary Industries**

## **Minister for Small Business**

---

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

Monday, 29 August, 2011

#### **NEWCASTLE BOGEY HOLE: SAFE AND SPRUCED UP**

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson and Member for Newcastle, Tim Owen, have announced that tenders are now being called for the reinstatement of safe access to the Newcastle Bogey Hole.

“The Newcastle Bogey Hole is an iconic feature of the State’s coastline and there is strong community support to keep it open to the public,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The Bogey Hole is listed on the State’s Heritage Register as a State Significant Item and as such should be available for public visitation.”

The Newcastle Bogey Hole was formed by convict labour around 1820 by the excavation of the coastal rock platform and has been open for public use for more than 150 years.

Tim Owen said that the restoration of safe access to the Bogey Hole was an issue of importance to both the local Newcastle community and tourists to the area.

“Planning to restore safe access at the Bogey Hole commenced in late 2010 and has involved specialist advice from local heritage architects, engineers and feedback from the community of Newcastle and Newcastle Council,” Mr Owen said.

Approval recently granted by the NSW Heritage Council includes the installation of a new stairway, pool access platform and safety netting at the site.

“Materials for the new access features have been selected for their durability, to fit in with the site’s natural features, and to allow interpretation of the historical elements.

“Work will also be undertaken to reinstate the historic post and chain fence which surrounds the pool and to install interpretative signage and other safety features,” Mr Owen said.

Katrina Hodgkinson said work on the Bogey Hole is expected to be completed later this year.

“The restoration of access to the Bogey Hole is expected to finish up just in time for the summer swimming season.

“These works are vital to the revitalisation of Newcastle’s coastline and the provision of safe access for locals and tourists to Crown Land assets,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

#### **Media contacts:**

**Samantha Day – 0408 176 475 or David Dawson – 0419 591 546**