



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 8 September 2014

NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO VITAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY WORK AT MAIANBAR

The NSW Government will provide funding to restore the health of Fishermans Bay and improve emergency evacuation options for residents of Maianbar, Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water Kevin Humphries and Member for Heathcote Lee Evans announced today.

Mr Humphries said the NSW Government will commit up to \$630,000 – which includes funding under round two of the Rescuing our Waterways program – to undertake work to improve environmental, tourism and safety outcomes for the Maianbar community.

“Waterways are the lifeblood of communities such as Maianbar,” Mr Humphries said.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals are committed to restoring the health of key waterways across the State by funding key dredging projects that will in turn support local economies and tourism industries.”

Mr Evans said the grant will allow Sutherland Shire Council to undertake pre-dredge activities to improve access for recreational boaters and commuters and to provide a safe evacuation route in event of bushfire or flooding.

“This waterway is so important to many communities in the Heathcote electorate and I am extremely pleased to be able to deliver funding for vital work that was long neglected by the former Labor government,” Mr Evans said.

“The NSW Government has listened to residents of Maianbar who have asked that dredging occur in the channel between Fishermans Bay and Maianbar to create a safe water evacuation route in the event of bushfires and flooding.

“With the channel silting up there is a real fear that rescue boats will be unable to access Fishermans Bay to transfer Maianbar residents. Under current safety evacuation arrangements, residents can be required to walk 500 metres, wading through water depending on the tide.

“This evacuation plan is unsuitable for the elderly, people with disability and some young children and I am very pleased the NSW Government has acted on the concerns of local residents and will vastly improve safety outcomes.”

Mr Humphries said the NSW Government will provide up to 50 per cent towards the project’s \$1.26 million cost, with Sutherland Shire Council to provide the remaining funds.