



ATTORNEY GENERAL
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
NEWS RELEASE

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Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment Should be Protected - Study

The catchment of Sydney's largest coastal lagoon - home to a rich array of plant and wildlife species – should be protected forever, a State Government study has revealed.

While addressing a "Lagoon Summit" at Warringah Council today, NSW Environment Minister Bob Debus said a Department of Lands study recommends the future protection of lagoon catchment land through northern suburbs such as Belrose, Cromer and Oxford Falls.

It found more than 70 per cent (450 hectares) of the study area should be protected while further environmental investigation should be carried out on the remaining 170 hectares.

"This is great news for the largest coastal lagoon in the Sydney region," Mr Debus said.

"It's no secret that decades of development has placed substantial pressure on the catchment – a legacy left to us by decision makers who knew little of the natural environment.

"Now we have a recommendation for protection of the lagoon catchment which is rich with wildlife particularly local and migratory bird species.

"It's now up to all land managers to conserve this special place which has become a haven for local residents along with nature and sports lovers."

Mr Debus said the catchment is also home to a variety of plant species within the fringing wetlands of the lagoon and rainforest within creek systems that feed the waterway.

"Several threatened species including the Giant Burrowing Frog, Rosenberg's Goanna, the Southern Brown Bandicoot, the Eastern Freetail Bat and Powerful Owl can all be found within a stone's throw of the lagoon," he said.

NSW Lands Minister Tony Kelly said the further investigation of the remaining land in the study area would require detailed high level environmental investigation before land use allocation could be considered.

"This will require extensive consultation with Warringah Council," Mr Kelly said.

"Both land allocations are subject to several Aboriginal land claims that are yet to be determined.

"The outcomes of this latest assessment have sought to find a balance between the environmental, social and economic demands placed on public land in the Sydney area."

Media Contact: Chris Ward 9228 3071 or 0418 424 654