



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW FUNDING FOR THE HUNTER RIVER ESTUARY

Environment Minister Robyn Parker and Newcastle MP Tim Owen today announced over \$130,000 in grants that will promote the restoration of the Hunter Review estuary.

Ms Parker said the Kooragang Volunteers have been awarded more than \$81,000 by the NSW Government for their project to improve local biodiversity and create a healthier environment.

"The Kooragang Volunteers have received this funding to enable them to continue their restoration of the Hunter River estuary," Ms Parker said.

Ms Parker also announced a grant of \$50,000 to commence the development of a comprehensive model of the behaviour of the waters of the Hunter estuary.

The project is being supported by Newcastle City Council, Maitland City Council, Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the NSW Government.

"The plan is to develop, in three stages, a comprehensive hydrodynamic model for the Hunter estuary which will assist in making informed decisions about this important waterway," Ms Parker said.

"The Hunter estuary is an important environment that supports not only a wide variety animals and plants but is vital for agriculture, industry and recreation."

Mr Owen said the project involves developing a detailed model for the estuary which will be used to make predictions about how the estuary will behave under different scenarios.

"This may include opening of floodgates, assessing the impact of future development and structural works and sea level rise," Mr Owen said.

"This model will assist Government and industry to manage the challenges facing the water resources of the Hunter Valley and ensure planning and decision making is based on sound science.

"Development of an accurate model will assist in the reliable assessment of large development proposals or land use changes in the Hunter valley and the subsequent impacts on the health of the Hunter estuary."