



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD CHAIR

Environment Minister Robyn Parker and Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams today announced the appointment of Chris Eccles, Director-General Premier and Cabinet, as the new Chair of the Lord Howe Island Board.

Mr Eccles's appointment follows the release today of the NSW Government's response to the Lord Howe Island Governance Review conducted by the Hon Murray Gleeson AC.

"The review considered options for increasing the role of the local community in leadership positions, ensuring standards of governance are maintained and protecting against the risk of conflicts of interest," Ms Parker said.

"The appointment of Mr Eccles reflects the importance of the Island to NSW and ensures the independence of the Chair of the Board as a non-islander in order to maintain strong and direct contact with central government and the Commonwealth.

"Lord Howe Island is a special place and the NSW Government is determined to ensure it has the best possible governance arrangements.

"We have also agreed to continue the process of appointing tourism, business and conservation representatives as members of the Board.

"As recommended by Mr Gleeson the present composition of the Board will be unchanged - four Islanders will be represented on the Board to ensure maximum representation for Island residents.

"To reflect the importance of the work done by on the Island the Government has agreed that the Chief Executive position and Board staff will remain within the Department of Premier and Cabinet."

Ms Parker thanked outgoing Board Chair Bob Conroy for taking over the role of Chair over the last nine months while Government considered the Gleeson Report recommendations.

"The Board members, staff and residents must be acknowledged for their ongoing contribution to maintaining the Island as one of the true gems of NSW and destinations of choice for visitors from around the world," Ms Parker said.

Member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams welcomed the announcement of the changes to the governance arrangements on Lord Howe Island.

“Lord Howe Island is a unique and remote location and it is imperative that the local community is at the forefront of decision making,” Mrs William said.

“I know the community was appreciative of the opportunity to be involved in the review and I thank them for their participation and their valued input.

“I look forward to working closely with Mr Eccles and the current board members.”

The Lord Howe Island Governance Review can be viewed here:

http://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/common/Review_of_Lord_Howe_Island_Governance-final_report.pdf