

## **Robyn Parker MP** Minister for the Environment Minister for Heritage

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 11 March 2014

## **GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES \$17.4 MILLION FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today announced \$17.4 million in new grants had been allocated to local councils to plan for and reduce risks of flooding. This builds on the \$3.5 million allocated late last year.

Ms Parker said flooding across NSW costs our economy about \$250 million each year, and 31 councils will receive funding assistance for 36 projects to plan for flooding and to build and maintain infrastructure to reduce the impact of flooding.

"This funding aims to reduce the impacts of flooding on communities and to reduce private and public losses resulting from floods.

"Councils will also contribute their own funds to the projects – in most cases the NSW Government provides \$2 for every \$1 provided by councils.

Examples of projects to be funded include:

- \$2.7 million to Coonamble Shire Council for stage one of a project to upgrade the Coonamble Levee to better protect the town;
- \$1.9 million for Coffs Harbour City Council for the construction of a detention basin at Spagnolos Road in the upper catchment of Coffs Creek to reduce downstream flood flows; and
- \$1.0 million for Bathurst Regional Council for flood mitigation works including works at the pump station at Glimore Street and widening an channel works to Queen Charlotte's Vale Creek and Perthville.

"The NSW Government recognises the damage that flooding can cause and is proud to support councils with funds and expertise to help them prepare and minimise the risk to their communities."

Minister Parker also announced that applications for grants from 2014/2015 round of the Floodplain Management Program would open on 7 March and close on 15 April 2014.

More information about the NSW Floodplain Management Program including links to application forms and guidelines is available on the Office of Environment and Heritage website at: <u>http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/Floodgrants.htm</u>