



Media Release

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NEW WALKING TRAIL FOR FLINDERS ISLAND

A new walking trail being developed at Lady Barron on Flinders Island will enhance tourism and also help protect sensitive vegetation.

NRM North, in partnership with the Flinders Island community, received a grant under the Australian Government's Envirofund for the work at Lady Barron and another project at Palana.

At Lady Barron, the project will see the development of 1.3 kilometres of formalised tracks, the removal of priority weeds including Asparagus Fern and revegetation with 700 native plants.

The Flinders Island NRM Facilitator, Mick Sherriff, said the project aimed to encourage more locals and tourists to use the walking trail while limiting impacts to the surrounding coastal vegetation and landforms.

"The area is popular with locals and tourists and to have formal tracks will just enhance the visitor experience.

"It will also help address erosion and ensure walkers keep to the designated areas of the track and don't venture into undefined areas and trample sensitive vegetation." Mr Sherriff said.

The trail stretches from Sydney Cove Park to the Yellow Beach barbecue area.

The project also includes the installation of an interpretative sign and bird viewing platform and the creation of tourist maps for the trail.

The work at Palana involves the removal of 700 metres of the weed Boxthorn and revegetation with 500 native plants.


Mr Sherriff said the encroachment of weeds at both sites was leading to coastal degradation and habitat loss.

"This project will benefit a number of important flora species including the Coast Twinleaf and Coast Groundberry which are both listed as threatened."

The project has support from many sectors of the Flinders Island community including the Palana Progress Association, Friends of Lady Barron, the Flinders Council, the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association, the Flinders Island Tourism Association and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

"This project has been successful in engaging the community to participate in natural resource management and improving understanding of the natural values and the need for NRM activities to protect the coastal foreshore." Mr Sherriff said.

The Palana Progress Association and Friends of Lady Barron will undertake photo monitoring of the two sites to measure the success of weed control and revegetation.



Both groups have committed to maintaining the sites after the completion of the project.

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058