

Peter Primrose MLC

Minister for Small Business,
Minister for Volunteering, Minister for Youth,
Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs



Monday, April 19, 2010

Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway upgrade completed

The Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Peter Primrose, and the Member for Drummoyne, Angela D'Amore, will today inspect the upgraded Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Concord, which benefitted from a \$195,000 NSW Government grant and a further \$100,000 from the Federal Government.

They will be met by the Chairman of the Walkway Trust, Rusty Priest, as well as two Papua New Guinean veterans of the campaign who are visiting for the official commemorations on April 23 and the Federal Member for Lowe, John Murphy.

Mr Primrose said he was impressed by the new works which included the replacement of the 800 metre pathway, as well as upgraded lighting, audio and CCTV cabling.

"The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway is an important reminder of the struggles of the New Guinea campaign and the bravery of Australian servicemen and women involved in the defence of Australia during World War II," Mr Primrose said.

Ms D'Amore said she was proud the NSW Government had provided the funds that enabled the completion of the upgrade.

"The Memorial Walkway honours the sacrifices of those who served in the New Guinea campaign and provides an important educational opportunity for those who visit," Ms D'Amore said.

"This upgrade will improve the experience for visitors, improve access and make it safer for the school children, elderly and anyone else who visits the walkway."

The Federal Member for Lowe, John Murphy, said the upgraded Memorial Walkway would be a wonderful asset for the community as well as a tribute to those who served.

"The Memorial Walkway is well known and this upgrade has ensured that it is in excellent shape for the commemorations and for the community to enjoy," said Mr Murphy.

Mr Priest thanked both the NSW and the Commonwealth Governments for their contributions.

"It's thanks to their generosity that we were able to fully complete the upgrade and we now see the benefit of the upgrade to the walkway," he said.

"It's also a way for the Government to say thanks to those who are not with us in body, but are with us in spirit."

Mr Priest also encouraged people to visit the upgraded memorial and join the Anzac commemoration services there this Friday (April 23) at 10.30am.

The upgrade cost a total of \$511,000 with the State Government committing \$195,000, the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs committing \$100,000 while RSL sub-branches have raised \$216,000.

The replacement of the pathway, which was first laid in 1995, will complete a series of major works at the Memorial.

The NSW Government contributed funds to these works including the \$400,000 for the new Education Centre, \$80,000 for the installation of electronic surveillance and lighting, and \$48,000 for a water feature.