

\$330,000 grant to revitalise Toonumbar Waters Retreat

The Toonumbar Water's Retreat could soon re-open its doors to local and visiting ecotourists after Kyogle Council and WaterNSW received a \$330,000 grant to upgrade the tourist attraction.

The grant, through the Cross-Border Commissioner's Infrastructure Fund, was announced earlier this week (Monday 24 May).

Council has long recognised the tourism and economic development potential of the retreat and has been working closely with WaterNSW to re-open the facility which closed in 2016.

The retreat, Toonumbar Dam and the Bells Bay Camping Area are owned by WaterNSW.

"The retreat and that whole area at the dam have such incredible potential for recreational and eco-tourism," Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland said.

"It's a great place to get back in touch with nature or to enjoy swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, cycling, bushwalking, and camping.

"This grant will help unlock that potential and see Toonumbar Dam once again recognised as a top-notch destination and venue."

The grant will go towards the repair of the 20 cabins at the retreat, upgrade sewerage, electrical and water treatment systems, and compliance with fire safety regulations.

Once the upgrade has been complete, Council and WaterNSW will call for expressions of interest from third party operators to re-open and run the retreat.

"This is another wonderful example of what great things we can achieve for the community when Council works hand in hand with other agencies, in this case the Cross Border Commission, the NSW Government and WaterNSW," Cr Mulholland said.

"It's a win for all involved, and one I know the community will appreciate."

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