

\$6.4 Million Investment sees Environmentally-Friendly Villas Wow Guests at Evans Head

A leader in cutting-edge holiday park accommodation, Reflections Holiday Parks and Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis MP, have officially opened an exciting new premium villa precinct wowing guests at Evans Head which adhere to Environmentally Sustainable Design principles.

Fully booked over Anzac Day and the Easter long weekend, the villas took 57 bookings over the April School Holidays. Guests have applauded the thoughtful design, proximity to the beach and family-friendly atmosphere of the park.

Mr Gulaptis visited the holiday park yesterday to celebrate the completion of the 13 new villas and said investments into parks like Evans Head supported regional tourism and significantly benefitted local economies.

"The sensitive, sustainable cabin designs really lift holiday park accommodation to the next level and show respect for the incredibly pristine natural environments throughout regional NSW," Mr Gulaptis said.

Completed improvements at Reflections Holiday Park Evans Head include:

- Installation of 13 architecturally-designed, environmentally-sensitive cabins which combine solar, Tesla batteries and use of recycled timbers.
- Upgrading of 30 powered sites, new park entry and internal road works.
- Demolition of tennis courts and clubhouse and investment of \$350,000 into the relocation of these facilities to the nearby Stan Payne Oval, (a like-for-like contribution with Richmond Valley Council).
- Landscaping (concrete footpaths, planting and mulching).
- Significant upgrading of services including the park's electrical supply.

Reflections Holiday Parks Chair Wendy Machin said the new cabin precinct at **Evans Head** coincided with the completion of a new cabin precinct at the group's **Clarkes Beach** park in Byron Bay to be celebrated at an opening ceremony today, 30th April 2019.

"The cabins installed at **Evans Head** and **Clarkes Beach** are part of an **\$8.9 million cabin upgrade project** substantially funded by the NSW Government's Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Program (CRIFP)," Ms Machin said.

"We take our role as a Manager of Crown land seriously – In total we have invested **\$6.450,000** in park development and asset renewal at Evans Head since July 2017."

"This shows our commitment to providing unforgettable holiday experiences and cementing our Evans Head park's status as a must-stay tourist destination to explore the wider Richmond Valley. Evans Head is a premier holiday destination and we will continue to invest in the vibrant coastal community to attract guests from far and wide."

Reflections Holiday Parks CEO Steve Edmonds said Richmond Valley Council had been very collaborative in their approach to planning and supported the Group's Vision throughout the accommodation upgrade project.

"This is an exciting time for Reflections Holiday Parks as we use our new cabin designs and environmentally sustainable ethos to lead the way in the industry and create a new point of difference from other holiday park groups," Mr Edmonds said.

"As well as use of solar and Tesla Batteries, our new villa precinct incorporates selective sourcing of material to reduce the carbon footprint, a cross ventilation design to reduce air conditioning and maximise use of natural light through well placed windows and skylights."

"Respectful native landscaping also lends itself well to these new cabins where the natural environment is the focus and their flow through to the outside takes advantage of the amazing surrounds of Evans Head."

The staged redevelopment process at Evans Head commences the Plan of Management formally Adopted by the Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water in April 2016.

Mr Edmonds said the new accommodation style for the Group was a first for the traditional holiday park industry in NSW. "If we are successful with a bid for the *Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund*, we would then be able to fund **\$7.9 million** in park improvements from July 2019, which would include a Foreshore Rejuvenation Project and Stage 2 of the Riverside," Mr Edmonds said.

"As per community feedback, Stage Two and Three of our park works will involve further upgrading of sites and community facilities, improved pedestrian access and more integrated landscaping."

"All going well, detailed design work will commence in July this year with the park upgrades completed by December 2020."

"Funding constraints prevented us from completing everything in one go so we are keen to get funding through the *Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund* to finish this park."

The inclusion of an environmentally-sensitive premium villa precinct at Evans Head is balanced with many camp sites still located within the Riverside Precinct. Visit www.reflectionsholidayparks.com.au to view the Adopted Plan of Management for the Evans Head.

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About *Reflections Holiday Parks*

Reflections manages the operations of 37 holiday parks and community reserves on Crown land throughout NSW. Formed in 2013 to consolidate the operations of 28 coastal and nine inland holiday parks and reserves located on Crown land throughout NSW, the Group incorporated three holiday park brands, (*North Coast Holiday Parks, South Coast Holiday Parks and Inland Waters Holiday Parks*), under its corporate banner, *Crown Holiday Parks*.

Rebranded to *Reflections Holiday Parks* in February 2018, the Group brings its 37 holiday and community parks on Crown land under the one unified banner. The group is a not-for-profit organisation and reinvests its surplus funds across all its holiday and community parks, so visitors and regional communities can keep enjoying these pristine locations. The vision of *Reflections Holiday Parks* is to inspire all who visit.