



## Don Harwin

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Minister for Resources  
Minister for Energy and Utilities  
Minister for the Arts

### MEDIA RELEASE

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## FOSSICKING NO FLASH IN THE PAN FOR REGIONAL NSW

Chances of striking gold or unearthing gems in NSW are better than ever with the number of fossicking districts expanded to support regional economies.

Minister for Resources Don Harwin announced today that the NSW Government had declared Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Bland Shire and Snowy Valleys Councils fossicking districts, taking the total number of districts to 63 across 28 local government areas.

“Fossicking is not only a popular and rewarding recreational activity, it has a positive impact on regional tourism and NSW regional economies,” Mr Harwin said.

“Our Government is committed to encouraging regional tourism, to strengthen and support the economies of our rural towns and centres. We have allocated \$400 million through the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund and Regional Environment and Tourism Fund to deliver on that commitment.”

The NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association estimates around 50,000 people fossick across the state each year, which contributes approximately \$20 million annually to NSW rural economies.

Fossicking districts now cover more than 9.3 million hectares, or 11.6 per cent of the state – the largest area ever in NSW.

Member for Bega Andrew Constance said his region’s rich history can now be explored in a different way.

“Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Shires were part of the 1850s gold rush, now visitors and locals can get a real feel for that history. The local economy will see a boost thanks to the newly declared fossicking districts in Bega,” Mr Constance said.

Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson welcomed Bland Shire’s inclusion.

“Councils can better market themselves as tourist destinations for fossickers, which will expand the regional geotourism market in NSW,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

Fossicking can be carried out on any land in NSW where it is deemed lawful, provided participants obtain permission from landowners and key stakeholders of the land. Fossicking remains prohibited in National Parks.

For a comprehensive guide, including tips and rules on fossicking in NSW visit <http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/fossicking-in-nsw>.

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