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Michelle O'Byrne, MP
Minister for Environment, Parks,
Heritage and the Arts

Tuesday, 30 June 2009

New Department Structure to Commence Tomorrow

The Minister for Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, Michelle O'Byrne, today said tomorrow marked the first day of operation of the new Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts.

Ms O'Byrne said it was important the public understood that the merging of the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts with existing departments would not have any impact on the day-to-day service delivery of the agencies.

"The State Government's decision to merge these two departments was to achieve administrative savings in the challenging financial times with which we are confronted.

"There will be no change to the services these vital agencies and their dedicated employees provide to our community."

Ms O'Byrne said while internal administrative arrangements would be modified over time to service the new structure, the public will continue to be able to deal with these agencies as they would have done under the previous Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts.

"Under the changed arrangements, Arts will be transferred to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and will continue to operate as it previously has."

Ms O'Byrne said she was extremely appreciative to the employees of the agencies for their professionalism during the merger process.

"This was an extremely difficult decision for the State Government to make, and I understand that it has caused some concern for people.

"Their efforts to continue providing the high-quality services and support to our State are to be commended, and I am confident will continue long into the future under the new departmental structure," Ms O'Byrne said.

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