

Offshore sand bid No 2

JOHN MORCOMBE
environment reporter

AN application has been lodged to explore for sand off the Central Coast by the same company that failed to gain approval for a similar exploration licence off the northern beaches three years ago.

Cremorne-based Sydney Marine Sand Pty Ltd has lodged an application to explore for sand resources in an area covering 180sq km off the Central Coast. The state Natural Resources De-



Bob Carr

Sydney Marine Sand Pty Ltd lodged an application in early 2003 to explore potential sand resources off the

partment will examine the application.

At its closest point, the exploration area is about 20km north-east of Barrrenjoey Head.

northern beaches for the construction industry.

That application covered an area of about 60sq km stretching from Narrabeen to Whale Beach, sparking local outrage.

Then premier Bob Carr criticised the application at the time but said that, because the proposed site was in Commonwealth waters, opposition by the State Government could be overridden by the Federal Government.

Sydney Marine Sand Pty Ltd

director Darren Skene said yesterday "the Government didn't even consider" his company's 2003 application. Days before the 2003 state election, Mr Carr said he would oppose it and it was officially rejected in February 2004.

Mr Skene said the present application followed a previous one by the company to explore a similar area.

"The previous application was supported by both the state and federal departments and the rec-

ommendation was that it be approved," he said.

"As well, licence agreements were reached between the state and federal governments but the state Mineral Resources Minister at the time, (Eddie) Mr Obeid, said, 'No' so the Federal Government also said 'No'."

Mr Skene said several coastal councils, including Warringah and Sutherland, were examining the issue of beach nourishment, for which offshore sand could be used.

BRIEFLY

Free concert

THIS month, Warringah Council celebrates 10 years as sister city to Chichibu in Japan. Five students have travelled from Chichibu to Warringah to mark the anniversary and will perform for free at Oxford Falls Peace Park from 11am on Sunday to celebrate 11 years since the park opened.

Writers' meeting

THE Fellowship of Australian Writers, Manly and Peninsula Branch, meets at 2pm in the Function Room, Warringah Mall library, tomorrow. Jennifer Rumsey will speak on art as inspiration. Phone Bea on 9452 2299.

Animal welfare

THE Animal Welfare League's Manly Warringah Pittwater branch will hold its annual general meeting at the cattery, 160 Mona Vale Rd, Ingleside, tomorrow from 2-4pm. Phone 9913 8731.

Engineering week

NORTH Sails Australia and McConaghy are opening the doors of their Mona Vale premises to the public for National Engineering Week. North Sails is one of Australia's largest sail makers. McConaghy Boats is a leading builder of ultra-light, ultra-fast racing yachts of all types and sizes. The tour will take place on Tuesday at 1pm. Visit www.engineeringweek.org.au

Luncheon talk

PETER Ritchie will talk on the start of McDonald's at the Manly VIEW Club luncheon at Balgowlah RSL on Wednesday, August 16, at 11.30am. The VIEW club supports The Smith Family. New members are welcome. Phone 9451 2862.

Wrap volunteers

SUNNYFIELD needs volunteers to gift wrap for Father's Day at Centro Warriewood on Thursday, August 31, and Saturday, September 2. Shoppers can have their gifts wrapped for a gold coin donation which helps Sunnyfield in create more independent lives for people with disabilities. Phone Bev on 8977 8881.

Home bags

LORNA Hodgkinson Sunshine Home has Father's Day Gift Bags to help fund their community access program for people with intellectual disabilities. Products are donated from various companies, packed into bags by volunteers and sold at \$59 each. The bags contain goods provided by Coty, Darrell Lea, Hardy Wines, 3M and delivery is free within Sydney courtesy of Fastway Couriers. Order with Geraldene on 9497 8735.

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