



The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 24 August 2012

GOVERNMENT DELIVERS ON LAKE CATHIE PROMISE

Deputy Premier and Member for Oxley Andrew Stoner and Member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams today announced that dredging will be carried out in Lake Cathie, fulfilling a Liberals & Nationals election commitment.

Mr Stoner said the NSW government has offered up to \$200,000 in funds under the *Rescuing our Waterways Program*.

"Lake Cathie is a draw card for locals and tourists alike and it is important that this waterway remains accessible with the most favourable conditions for recreational users," Mr Stoner said.

"Lake Cathie is a naturally shallow coastal lake, so the proposed dredging will greatly improve access for small watercraft and for other recreational activities.

"While I am pleased that Port Macquarie-Hastings Council opened the Lake last week as part of their opening strategy, dredging still needs to be carried out to reduce the sand build up which has occurred since it was last dredged in 2005.

"The dredging project we are announcing today was put together in consultation with stakeholders, including Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams, and is consistent with the outcomes of recent coastal management studies.

"The Department of Primary Industries will now work with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council to finalise the project proposal."

Member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams said \$200,000 would be offered to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council for the dredging.

"Under the proposal, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council will develop and manage the project, including the necessary environmental assessments, approvals and tender," Mrs Williams said.

"Council will carry out an environmental assessment and undertake design works to determine the exact dredging area and location of where the dredged sand will be located.

"The dredging will be undertaken to the east of the Ocean Drive Bridge adjacent to the foreshore reserve extending eastward to the back of the beach berm to maximise the recreational benefits to the community.

"It was on the banks of Lake Cathie just 18 months ago that Mr Stoner and I announced the NSW Liberals & Nationals Rescuing our Waterways policy and I am pleased that we are now seeing this important estuary being maintained so that it remains a healthy recreational asset for our local community," Mrs Williams said.