



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 14 September 2012

WALLIS LAKE DREDGING COMMENCES

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services Andrew Stoner today announced that dredging had commenced around the Wallis Lake oyster beds.

“Great Lakes Council accepted the government’s \$400,000 funding offer and has moved quickly to engage a dredging contractor to commence the work,” Mr Stoner said.

“This is great news for Wallis Lake oyster growers and oyster lovers.

“Wallis Lake is the most valuable source of Sydney Rock Oysters in NSW, supporting some 29 businesses spread over 350 hectares of leases.

“The dredging is taking place at The Paddock where increasing sand build-up in lease areas and surrounding channels has slowed production and halved the number of premium oysters produced each year.

“The dredging works will also make navigation in the lake easier.”

MP for Myall Lakes, Stephen Bromhead, congratulated the NSW Government, council and the oyster growers for working together to get the dredging up and running.

“The sand build-up was responsible for a significant drop in oyster production so I am delighted the dredge is operating,” Mr Bromhead said.

“Council is managing the dredge operation which aims to remove 23,500 cubic metres of sand from the oyster leases and 22,500 cubic metres from the adjacent navigation channels.

“Most of the funding for the dredging is from the government’s *Rescuing Our Waterways* program with contributions from council and Wallis Lake oyster growers.

“Wherever possible, dredged sand will be re-used to help offset dredging costs.

“It is expected dredging will be completed in November this year.”