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Investigation Underway Of Impacts From Dredge Spoil Islands At Swansea

Local environmental consultant, Umwelt Australia Pty Ltd, has been engaged by the Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Co-ordinator for a staged investigation of the impacts of dredge spoil islands at Swansea. Up to \$49,925 will be spent on the project, while Umwelt's proven expertise in this field, coupled with their strong team of professionals and peer review process will provide tangible results. Jeff Jansson, Lake Macquarie and Catchment Co-ordinator, who made the announcement today, said the islands were created many years ago from the spoil associated with dredging works to create a narrow boating channel. "Photogrammetry has shown the small islands have been joining up to create an impermeable spit or barrier to water movement," said Mr Jansson. "It is believed this is having impacts on the health of seagrass beds, as well as the hydraulic processes. It will also involve construction of a numerical model and an assessment of long-term impacts. "Subject to the findings of this initial phase, the next stage will look at the benefits, problems, methodology and costs associated with improving the problem," he said.

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