



9 May 2000:

Lake Survey Identifies Key Issues, Bright Future

New research has found that local residents are optimistic about the environmental future of Lake Macquarie. Speaking at the launch of the Living Lake Macquarie Community Survey Report, Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator Jeff Jansson said the majority of people living in the Catchment area believed the health of Lake Macquarie was on the improve. "The report suggests that the people of Lake Macquarie are quite optimistic about the future of the Lake itself. Results show that the majority of people in the area believe the Lake environment has improved over the last five years. This is a heartening result for the initiatives that have been put in place to solve key issues." The report was compiled by Precision Research on behalf of the Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator after a month of research. The research project involved a telephone survey of 600 randomly selected respondents aged 18 years and over within the Lake Macquarie and Catchment area. Responses were obtained over a four week period in March and April. Jeff Jansson said that while the majority of respondents saw a relationship between human activity and the Lake environment, there is still room for improvement in community awareness. "It is great that most people realise that our actions effect the health of Lake Macquarie, but the 37% who do not acknowledge this fact is a figure which is still too high. We are working at increasing the levels of awareness within the Catchment through targeted community education programs." Precision Research spokesperson Chris Ford said the Report was consistent with other local community surveys conducted in 1997 and last year. "Council has undertaken two separate surveys over the past four years, which have dealt with issues relating to the environment and usage of Lake Macquarie. Where this most recent survey overlaps the results are mostly consistent with that of its predecessors, particularly in relation to the high percentage of people who use the Lake for recreation."

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