



Working to Revive, Renew and Protect the Ecology of Lake Macquarie NSW

9 August 2001

### **SURVEY SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON LAKE MACQUARIE**

The Hunter Valley Research Foundation (HVRF) will conduct a survey of residents of the Lake Macquarie Catchment area from 13 August.

The telephone survey will research community opinion on a range of Lake issues and collect data that will assist in the planning of further strategies to revive Lake Macquarie.

Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator Jeff Jansson says the study is a repeat of a survey conducted in April 2000 and the comparative results will be used to evaluate the success of community education and awareness programs carried out as part of the program.

"The aim of the survey is to measure changes in community perception over time and the effectiveness of education programs and awareness campaigns. We find that people are generally cooperative and willing to participate in studies that deal with such important community issues."

Jeff said that community research was an integral part of the three-year action plan, developed by the Premier's Lake Macquarie Taskforce in 1999.

"Community opinion on key issues is important to evaluate the program and will help direct us to areas that require further attention. One area I will be particularly interested in is the 37% of respondents from last year who said that their domestic activity had little or no bearing on the health of the Lake.

The research period will begin on 13 August and will continue for one week. The survey will interview over 600 of the estimated 190,000 people living in the Catchment area and the findings will be published in September.

"The survey is a great opportunity for residents of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment area to have an input into the improvement of such an important natural resource."

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