



13 February 2001:

Major Lake Improvement Works To Begin Soon

Work is expected to begin soon on major rehabilitation projects worth a total of \$908,000 on both sides of Lake Macquarie.

The projects include a foreshore stabilisation scheme at Salts Bay Beach, Swansea, and the building of stormwater quality improvement devices in the Fennell Bay area.

Lake Macquarie and Catchment Co-ordinator, Mr. Jeff Jansson, said today contracts were about to be let for the Swansea scheme which involved the moving of sand from Swansea Channel, the entrance to Black Ned's Bay and the western part of Salts Bay Beach to the eastern end of the same beach.

Mr Jansson said the project - to cost about \$600,000 - also involved the extension of an existing rock groyne on the beach and the construction of a new groyne to the west.

He said the scheme would provide much needed protection for the beach, as well as the environmentally significant wetlands and littoral rainforest located immediately behind the beach.

The Fennell Bay component involves the replacement of a section of an existing concrete drainage channel at Ward Street, Blackalls Park, with a constructed wetland. An additional wetland will also be built, opposite Todd Street.

"This represents a dramatic change in thinking as far as stormwater management is concerned," said Mr Jansson "We are now concentrating on using natural systems to filter and treat stormwater to prevent sediments and nutrients from entering the Lake".

The project also involves the installation of two commercial pollutant traps - one at Bay Road and the other at Elizabeth St, Fennell Bay.

Total cost of the entire project will be approximately \$308,000.

The Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr John Kilpatrick, today described the projects as great news for the City.

"We are now beginning to see major results flowing from the Premier's Lake Macquarie Task Force and these will go a long way towards helping to preserve our beautiful lake," he said.

The Member for Lake Macquarie, Mr Jeff Hunter, said "the commencement of physical works on this section of the project aimed at improving the condition of Fennell Bay was welcome news".

The Member for Swansea, Mr Milton Orkopoulos also commented, saying, "the people of the Swansea district are delighted to see the Premier's Task Force fixing up Salts Bay".

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