

18 SEPTEMBER 2001

## IMPROVED BOATING ACCESS FOR LAKE MACQUARIE

Boating access in Lake Macquarie is to be upgraded following the announcement of funding for two channel improvement projects.

Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator, Mr Jeff Jansson, said dredging would be carried out to the main boating channel in time for the high traffic movements experienced during summer.

"The Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee, appointed to oversee the implementation of lake improvement strategies recommended by the Premier's Task Force, had approved the special funding," said Mr Jansson.

"The channel improvements are required to rectify a problem caused by the dredging of a second southern opening into Swan Bay several years ago."

"The opening, whilst improving water quality in Swan Bay, has interfered with water movement in the main boating channel, resulting in shoaling at this one location."

"The configuration and reduced water depth has resulted in access problems for larger craft."

"Lake Macquarie City Council has been requested to arrange and project manage the proposed dredging, with funding through the Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator."

Mr Jansson continued, saying that funding was also approved to engage specialist consultants to undertake a sediment transport and navigation investigation of this area of the channel.

"This study will seek to develop an understanding of the complex processes occurring and explore management options for this ongoing problem," he said.

**For further information contact Mr Jeff Jansson on 49 210 230.**