



**Media Release – 26 May 2003**

## **Booragul Wetlands In Running for Design Award**

Staff members of LMC\_ Consulting Group, the design division of Lake Macquarie City Council, and Civilake, the construction division, are celebrating after receiving a nomination in the Lower Hunter Civic Design Awards for their work on the constructed wetlands at Booragul.

The awards program is run by the five Lower Hunter Councils; Newcastle, Maitland, Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie and Cessnock. The program is not an architectural competition, nor a planning competition, but relates to the principles of urban design for the betterment of the community.

The constructed Booragul wetlands site is in the running for the Alfred Sharp Award, an Urban Design category, judged on the integration of the built and natural environment.

Neil Pope from LMC\_, said the project was both challenging and rewarding.

*"The main challenge was to provide a facility that achieved the water quality objectives, and budget constraints, yet integrated with the existing and planned environment of the precinct," he said.*

Darrel Charlesworth, from Civilake, said the project involved constructing a clay wall to prevent discharge from six stormwater pipelines from entering the Lake and planting over 18,000 plants to stabilise the wall and surrounding banks.

*"The Civilake team also planted 1,500 specialist water plants (macrophytes) to filter the harmful nutrients and sediments that were entering the Lake from the site," Mr Charlesworth said.*

The Booragul Wetlands project was initiated and funded by the Office of the Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator that was formed in 1999 to

implement the recommendations of the Premiers Taskforce Report on Lake Macquarie.

*"We believe this is another worthwhile measure to protect Lake Macquarie and we would like to thank The Office of the Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator for making this project possible," Mr Charlesworth said.*

Jeff Jansson, Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator, congratulated the LMC\_ and Civilake teams for receiving the nomination.

*"The Booragul wetlands site is both aesthetically beautiful and environmentally sustainable. The site is worthy of this award nomination and I wish LMC\_ and Civilake all the best for the award announcement in August," he said.*

Entrants are judged by a committee comprised of representatives from the five Lower Hunter Councils and professional organisations, including the Master Builders Association, Planning Institute of Australia and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

The winner will be announced on the 15 August at a ceremony held at Maitland Town Hall.

**ENDS**

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