



MEDIA RELEASE – for immediate use 18 July 2003

Dog Leg Removed From Channel Challenge

The infamous 'dog-leg' near Naru Point, the curse of many sailors entering Lake Macquarie through Swansea Channel, has been removed.

Acting Chairman of the Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee, Greg Piper, said he was sure the news would be welcomed by the boating community.

"The dog-leg has been completely removed, ensuring safer navigation through the ocean entrance to Lake Macquarie."

"I know the many 'boaties' I have spoken to over the years will be relieved that they no longer have to encounter that challenge."

The 'dog-leg' formed over time near the constructed entrance to Swan Bay, originally made with the intention of improving water quality in the Bay.

"Not only is the dog-leg no longer, but the boating channel has been deepened to 3.5 metres, further improving the safety for vessels travelling through the site."

Greg Piper urged sailors to continue to exercise caution in the area, but said the removal of the hazard achieved a major milestone in the management of navigation safety in Lake Macquarie.

The removal of the 'dog-leg' is part of a dredging maintenance program funded by the Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee, formed as a result of the Premier's Taskforce Report on Lake Macquarie in 1999.

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For further information please contact:

Jai McDermott on 0411 422 906