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Method chosen for partial closure of Swan Bay

Construction methods for the partial closure of the Swan Bay southern entrance have been finalised with planning documentation and design work commencing in order to submit a development application to Council in November.

After consultation with the community late last year the Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee committed funds to partially close the southern constructed entrance to Swan Bay. The partial closure will minimise shoaling and improve the longevity of past and future maintenance dredging carried out in Swansea Channel, preventing the return of the 'dog-leg'.

"The partial closure of the constructed opening at Swan Bay is part of a longer term strategy for the navigation channel," Mayor Greg Piper, Chairman of the Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee said.

The construction method involves the placement of a protective structure made of sand-filled geo-fabric tubing, extending from the shore into the water to stabilise the works. This structure will then have small rock groynes with sandy beaches along the channel face and some rock work at the entrance gap.

A sand beach will also be constructed on the western side of the structure providing a recreational area.

"The option chosen provides an aesthetically pleasing structure that will be utilised by the community," Cr Piper said.

Dredging work will also be conducted to improve navigation to the main northern entrance into Swan Bay.

The Southern Entrance to Swan Bay was created in the mid 1990s by local private sand extraction operations in order to assist in improving water quality within the Bay. Although the entrance started as a relatively narrow channel, it quickly expanded to a width of 250 metres due to strong tidal currents that were being redirected from Swansea Channel through Swan Bay. Simultaneously with the expansion of the southern entrance was significant shoaling in the main navigation path through Swansea Channel and the creation of a 'dog-leg', which has since been removed with dredging works.

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