



**Media Release
8 October 2004
For Immediate Use**

Wetland at Morrisset to curb commercial impact

The construction of a wetland in Kahibah Street, Morrisset is now underway. Once completed, the wetland will play a vital role in reducing the impact of the Morrisset commercial centre on the health of the Lake Macquarie.

The project funded by The Office of the Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator is valued at over \$140,000.

The 650 square metre wetland containing over 2000 aquatic plants, will help protect Lake Macquarie's water quality by filtering sediments and nutrients that enter the Lake through Stockton Creek which feeds into Dora Creek.

According to Jeff Jansson, The Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator, Dora Creek contributes more contaminants into Lake Macquarie than any other creek in the area.

The wetland will treat stormwater run-off from a 7.6 hectare catchment comprising of a large section of the Morrisset commercial precinct as well as residential areas.

"Wetlands, apart from being rich in biodiversity, perform a similar role for the Lake as the kidney does for the human body, filtering out sediments, nutrients and other contaminants and preventing them from entering the lake," Jeff Jansson said.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of November.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Lynne Johns or Elizabeth Pilkington

Phone - 49292063 - Email - info@fordcomm.com.au