



**Media Release
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DRAFT PLANS TO IMPROVE VILLAGE BAY

Plans have been proposed to remove the build up of organic ooze and create natural sloping beaches to prevent the ooze returning in the future along the foreshore of Village Bay, improving the area for residents and Lake users.

The project forms part of the Lake Improvement Works undertaken by The Office of the Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator. The initial works at Village Bay are estimated at \$580,000.

At Village Bay, most of the naturally sloping foreshore has been replaced by vertical seawalls or escarpments due to foreshore filling. So rather than seagrass being washed up onto the foreshore, the wrack accumulates and breaks down underwater in front of the seawalls to form oozy organic sediment.

The works proposed for the public foreshores at Village Bay involve the dredging of nearshore organic sediment, using a long reach excavator, followed by the placement of sand and cobble to re-establish a gently sloping beach foreshore. A sandy beach will be created adjacent to the public reserve off Village Bay Close.

"The initial works will involve rehabilitation at sites only where public access is available. It is hoped that if these trial sites are successful, more widespread rehabilitation can occur in the future along the foreshore at Village Bay," Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator Jeff Jansson said.

"The plans provide environmentally sensitive solutions to address the problems along the nearshore at Village Bay and are now open to public comment," he said.

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