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Additional Funding Targets Lake Pollution

Identifying potential pollution sources affecting Lake Macquarie, together with increased public awareness of these environmental issues, is the latest initiative of the Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator. Concern over potential stormwater pollution from unlicensed industrial premises within the Cockle Creek catchment, as well as the use of septic tanks in the Toronto West Industrial Estate, are two areas highlighted as possible sources in the recent report by the Premier's Task Force on the Lake. Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator, Jeff Jansson, said the two projects have a total value of \$32,465 and will be administered by Lake Macquarie City Council, who will engage additional environmental officers on a temporary basis to undertake the work. "Audits of unlicensed industrial premises within the Cockle Creek catchment will assist operators in identifying potential pollution sources," said Mr Jansson. "The audit process will be enhanced with specific industry group education programs, with both components costing around \$23,055." "Declining water quality in Stony Creek was another indicator which prompted the need to review the operation and effectiveness of septic tanks in the Toronto West Industrial Estate, which is without a reticulated sewerage system," he said. According to Mr Jansson this initiative will cost \$9,410, with the Task Force report recommending the Hunter Water Corporation consider a servicing strategy for this pocket of unsewered properties following the review.

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