



**14 September 1999:**

## **Lake Action Plan Up and Running - First Works Underway**

The three year Lake Macquarie Action Plan to rehabilitate the health of the lake became a reality today with the commencement of the first physical improvement works in the catchment. The \$12.5 million dollar plan was the result of the Premier's Task Force on Lake Macquarie which was instigated following public concern of the deteriorating lake and its environs. Acting Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator, Jeff Jansson, said the initial activities would centre on a large gravel area at the mouth of Cockle Creek, including the erection of vehicle barriers and vegetation works. "The work will also involve stabilisation of a nearby section of road verge fronting Creek Reserve Road," said Mr Jansson. "The work will be conducted by Lake Macquarie City Council with a \$16,500 contribution by the Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator." Mr Jansson continued, saying that as with many of the projects associated with the three year action plan, the works will be undertaken within the catchment. "This is aimed at reducing the cause of the lake's sedimentation problems rather than just treating the symptoms within the lake itself," he said. Each year an estimated 3,375 truck loads of sediment and 21 truck loads of fertiliser enters the lake, with the two contributing to excessive algal growth. Mr Jansson also highlighted the fact that community input in identifying eroded sites and drainage lines containing sediment is still being sought.

If you can help rehabilitate Lake Macquarie by identifying problem eroded areas, please contact the Acting Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator at Box 1906, Hunter Region Mail Centre, 2310.

Further information contact:

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