

LAKE ILLAWARRA AUTHORITY

Media Release

Lake Illawarra Entrance Works

Advice was received today from the Lake Illawarra Authority that the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed northern breakwater and dredging at the entrance to Lake Illawarra has been completed.

The EIS will be exhibited to the public from 29 January 2005. The EIS will be available for inspection at the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources as well as Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils. A copy of the EIS can also be purchased for \$25. The closing date for public submissions on the EIS is 4 March 2005.

As part of the exhibition period, the Authority will be holding an Open House on Saturday 12th February 2005 on the grassed area at the entrance to the Windang Foreshore Park and Windang Beach Tourist Park off Fern St, Windang. The Open House will commence at 9:00am and finish at 3:00pm. Members of the community are invited to attend the Open House to learn more about the proposed works and the EIS process. Representatives from the Authority and the design team will be on hand to answer questions and receive comments.

Mr Dooley, the Executive Officer for the Authority advised that works to improve the condition of the entrance to Lake Illawarra has been a high priority for the Authority since its formation in 1988.

“The Authority has long recognised that to improve water quality in the lake stormwater runoff from the catchment must be treated before it enters the lake and that keeping the entrance open more often than has occurred historically in the past will improve flushing.”

Engineering consultants have recently completed plans detailing the proposed work, which includes:

- The construction of a northern breakwater / training wall off Perkins Beach
- The extension of the existing southern breakwater / training wall
- Dredging of sections of the entrance channel
- Sand nourishment of Warilla Beach and
- Extension of the groyne at the entrance to Little Lake

An artists impression of the proposed work is shown over.

“The northern and southern breakwaters will reduce the potential for sand movement from Perkins Beach to block the entrance channel. Dredging will also result in the removal of a large quantity of sand from the channel that will be used to nourish the southern end of Warilla Beach. Once the work is completed, it is expected that flow in the channel will improve as sand is gradually scoured out of the channel following successive floods. There is however, no guarantee that the entrance will remain permanently open” Mr Dooley said. “For instance it may be necessary over the next decade, to remove sand from the system from time to time.”

The project is being funded by the NSW Government, Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils at a cost of 4 million dollars

Commencement of work is subject to the Authority receiving all the necessary planning approvals. Providing there are no delays during the planning approval phase, work could start in May 2005.

For more information about the open house or the entrance works please contact the Authority on 4224 9633 or visit their web-site at www.lia.nsw.gov.au

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