



New South Wales Government

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Police
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

FUNDING FOR SWANSEA CHANNEL DREDGING

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, today announced funding for urgent dredging works to Lake Macquarie as part of the NSW 2009/10 Budget.

“The NSW Government will be investing more than \$300,000 towards the dredging works in Swansea Channel,” Mr Kelly said.

“The works are aimed at providing early relief for recreational boaters over the coming peak boating season that commences in September.

“The section of channel between Pelican Marina and the drop-over near Marks Point has recently been affected by a build up of sand.

“Tenders for the project are expected to be called in the next few weeks with work commencing in late July,” Mr Kelly said.

Member for Swansea, Robert Coombs, welcomed the funding for dredging.

“These works are needed for local recreation and commercial uses to navigate the channel,” Mr Coombs said.

“This will provide a real boost to the local economy as it will open the waterways for recreational boaters and tourist operators as well as commercial boaters.”

Mr Kelly said that the Lands Department is continuing to review proposals from the private sector aimed at developing a commercially viable operation for maintaining the channel.

“Lands is working closely with Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW Maritime and other stakeholders to look at all options for a sustainable long term strategy for the channel.

Mr Kelly said that the dredging funding is part of the \$2.9 million for the minor ports and river entrances program.

“Navigation of river and port entrances are essential for the regional economy and the government is committed to working with communities, authorities and the private sector to achieve improvements to maritime infrastructure”, Mr Kelly said.

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