

Lake Cathie Progress Association Inc.

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Mr Gordon Cameron
Port Macquarie Hastings Council
PO Box 84
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Dear Gordon

HYDRODYNAMIC MODELLING – LAKE CATHIE ESTUARY INCLUSION OF BATHYMETRY (DEPTH) SURVEY

As a result of the in depth investigations carried out by our Association and many others into the current Coastal Study the connections between the functions of the estuary and outcomes for the entrance and coastal zone have been highlighted with the lack of flushing of the estuary being among the most significant.

This lack of flushing of the system after the very heavy rainfalls early in 2009 requires investigation.

The natural flushing of the system referred to in all the studies done to date was recognised by those learned authors as critical to the health of the entire waterway as well as coastal areas. Unfortunately we cannot ever return to the natural flushing which took place prior to the property development of the Kenwood Drive area however the current apparent shallow depth of the estuary channels is reducing the volume of the water outflows significantly and little or no scouring is occurring.

The apparent loss of channel depths has been confirmed by recreational boaters and even canoeists and kayakers.

PAST BATHYMETRY SURVEYS FOR COMPARISON

Colin Creighton in 1983 included depth measurements in his study and we understand other studies may also include data for comparison.

POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER FISH KILLS

The shallow water depths could lead to more fish kills as occurred in January this year and every effort must be made to avoid a recurrence.

We request the Coast & Estuary Management Committee and Council give serious consideration to our request and have this survey included in the scenarios for modelling.

Yours truly

Jack Jones
Secretary