



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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**DREDGING TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR PRAWN TRAWLERS
IN THE CLARENCE**

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson and Member for Clarence, Steve Cansdell, today announced that funding approval has been granted for dredging works to commence at Palmers Channel.

“This much-needed maintenance dredging will allow for safe trawler access to the estuary prawn grounds of the Clarence,” Katrina Hodgkinson said.

“The NSW Government has listened to the concerns of both local fishers and the wider community and acted.

“More than \$124,000 will be provided to Clarence Valley Council to dredge Palmers Channel in order to allow estuary prawn trawlers access to Woollooweyah Lagoon in time for this year’s prawn season which commences in early October.

“This funding will go a long way to assisting the growth of the local estuary prawn trawl fishery following years of inaction and empty promises made by the former Labor Government.”

Steve Cansdell said the dredging of Palmers Channel was a win for not just local fishers and the community but for people across the State who savour the region’s great seafood.

“This is fantastic news, especially for fishers preparing for this year’s prawn trawl season,” Mr Cansdell said.

“Palmers Channel has not been dredged since 1991 and this announcement will ensure safe trawling access to a Channel that has become notoriously hard to navigate.

The dredging of Palmers Channel is set to commence within the next week and will conclude before the start of the prawn trawl season on 4 October, 2011.

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