



DATE: 5 February 2014

LEAK REPAIRED; SOUTHERN BEACH TO REOPEN NEXT WEEK

The southern end of the beach at Wollongong Harbour will reopen next Tuesday following the successful completion of repairs to the sewerage system servicing the Fishermen's Coop Building.

"The leak ceased after completion of repairs to sewer lines adjacent to the Fisherman's Coop building on Monday which followed work on the sewerage pump station last week," said Stephen Wills, director of coastal infrastructure for Trade & Investment Crown Lands.

"No flow has been observed from the wall since Monday and the odour has dissipated," Mr Wills said.

"Crown Lands is closely monitoring the performance of the sewerage system and has installed an automated early warning system on the pump station.

"As the seepage into the harbour has stopped it was agreed at a meeting held yesterday between Wollongong City Council and state agencies that the southern end of the beach will be reopened on Tuesday, 11 February.

"Until that time, and as a precaution, people are advised to avoid the water and sand in the immediate area where the leak occurred.

"Council advises against swimming at this location at any time, as the beach is unpatrolled.

"Beachgoers are also reminded that swimming in the harbour after periods of rainfall, or while stormwater is present, should be avoided due to the risk of pollution from stormwater runoff.

"Investigations and repair works were concentrated on damaged sewer lines and the pump station adjacent to the coop building at the southern end of the harbour.

"On Friday 17 January, the beach at the harbour was closed as a precaution and a multi-agency group comprising Crown Lands, the EPA, Sydney Water, Illawarra Shoalhaven Public Health and council was established to resolve the matter.

The northern portion of the beach was reopened on 22 January but the southern end of the beach remained closed while the repairs continued."

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