



11 February 2016

EMERGENCY WORK UNDERWAY AT PELICAN MARINA

A multi-agency emergency response at Pelican Marina at Lake Macquarie is underway, with demolition of the collapsed structure expected to commence over the coming days.

Department of Primary Industries – Lands Director Regional Operations East, Marwan El-Chamy, said the emergency response is being overseen by DPI Lands and supported by NSW Public Works and Roads and Maritime Services.

“A range of measures are underway to ensure the safety of the occupants of the building and the neighbouring community – this is our first priority,” Mr El-Chamy said.

“Tenants have been advised that professional demolition is now the only option, following further movement of the structure overnight.

“We will make every effort to retrieve their precious items – but that depends on how the demolition unfolds and the risks to safety.

“We understand that this incident is distressing for all the tenants, and we are now providing as much support as possible, including counselling and assistance with alternative accommodation.”

Mr El-Chamy said two barges are on standby and a boom will be deployed with an additional barge to capture any material that falls into the Swansea channel.

“For safety and logistical reasons members of the public are being asked to keep away from the site,” he said

Roads and Maritime Services has established a vessel exclusion area with reduced speed limits in the direct vicinity of the building.

The vessel exclusion area will be established on the navigable waters of the Swansea Channel and will extend from the Pelican Airport Runway downstream to the Pelican Public Wharf near the Marine Rescue Base and extend a distance of 30 metres into the Channel from the Pelican Marina mooring poles.

The exclusion area will remain in place until Friday 19 February 2016 and monitored by Roads and Maritime Services vessels.

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