



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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CALL FOR DREDGING TENDERS AT SWANSEA CHANNEL

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson and Member for Swansea, Garry Edwards, have announced that the NSW Government is upholding another election commitment by calling for tenders for two separate dredging projects at the Swansea Channel.

Katrina Hodgkinson said the proposed works aim to enhance boating access between Lake Macquarie and the Pacific Ocean by removing shoaling at both the entrance to Black Ned's Bay and the upper end of the Swansea Channel.

"These works will be welcome news for the local community and boating enthusiasts using the Channel," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

"This is in stark contrast to the former Labor Government, which touted its purchase of a \$1.6 million dredge but failed to mention that it did not have a budget, a business case or approval to do so.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is not in the habit of making empty promises and this call for tenders demonstrates our commitment to providing real services for the local community."

Garry Edwards said the issue of boating safety in the Channel is one of great importance to his electorate.

"It is clear that the waterway will require ongoing attention to ensure there is continuity of access for commercial and recreational vessels.

"These dredging works are of importance not only to local and visiting boating communities but they are vital to the region's economy. It's essential we get this right," Mr Edwards said.

Ms Hodgkinson said the Crown Lands Division of the NSW Department of Primary Industries is working to develop a strategy that outlines a sustainable long-term approach to the issue of dredging in the area.

"This strategy will involve consultation and assistance from Local and State Government as well as key stakeholders such as the Boat Owners Association of NSW and Boating Industry Association."

Tenders are now being called for dredging projects at Swansea Channel. Information packages for each project can be downloaded on the NSW Government's E-Tender website at <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/?event=public.home>

Tenders for both projects close on the 14 September, 2011.

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