

Conjola Community Association (CCA) Update on Opening of Lake Conjola - Executive Summary

Following initial representations to the NSW Premier, Premier's Department, Minister for Local Government, the Governor and Attorney General's on the importance of a stable long-term entrance opening to underpin the socio-economic and environmental recovery of Lake Conjola and surrounding communities, your CCA is working alongside Shoalhaven City Council Councillors, Directors and the Chief of Staff to the Minister for Local Government and Coastal Management in preparing a proposal to open the lake in line with the stated objectives.

More specifically, your CCA is assisting Paul Keech, Director of Assets and Works with the preparation of a fully costed plan to expedite the Managed Entrance option recommended by Patterson Britton and Partners (PBP) 1999 which has been scientifically validated by the Interim Works of 1999 and further endorsed as still valid by Greg Britton, the original author of PBP1999.

Your CCA has provided Council with the required amendments to the existing operational Crown Land licence to increase the footprint of the licence beyond the existing boundaries to facilitate the proposed scale of works. As well as, providing the required amendments to the current Review of Environmental Factors (REF) in line with Managed Entrance proposal.

Preparation of the proposed plan and costings are well underway and it is anticipated that the submission will be lodged in February and once NSW Government funding through the Coastal & Estuary Grants Program (and other sources) is secured, the Managed Entrance works will commence soon after under an amended operational licence.

Your CCA will provide further community updates on the progress of the opening as they come to hand.