



The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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ESTUARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE THE FUTURE FOR LAKE ILLAWARRA

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner today announced that the NSW Government will adopt the recommendations of the review of the Lake Illawarra Authority (LIA).

The review, headed by Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources Troy Grant, investigated the best future management options for Lake Illawarra.

Mr Stoner said the review concluded that the LIA had met its objectives under the *Lake Illawarra Authority Act (1987)*, including achieving an improved aquatic ecosystem, an increased tidal flow and better recreational amenities.

“The review recommends repealing the Act and creating an Estuary Management Committee to manage the lake into the future,” Mr Stoner said.

“This will effectively return management of the lake to Wollongong City and Shellharbour City Councils and the community.

“In consultation with the two local councils, NSW Crown Lands will prepare a transition plan, including funding arrangements, for this to be achieved.”

The new management model is consistent with that of other estuaries in NSW, including Lake Macquarie, Tuggerah Lakes and the St Georges Basin.

Mr Grant acknowledged the tremendous work of the LIA Board and staff over the past 25 years; particularly that of Chairman Doug Prosser.

“I would also like to acknowledge the cooperation from Wollongong City and Shellharbour City Councils in their efforts to restore the health of the lake over this period,” Mr Grant said.

“The community was given the opportunity to provide input into the review, including a call for public submissions, meetings with key stakeholders and correspondence to local Members of Parliament.

“We received a great response from the community, contained in 140 surveys.

“Their feedback showed that recreation and access to the lake were some of the important projects they supported, with a shareway for pedestrian and bicycle use and a safe, netted swimming lagoon for family use already delivered.

“The full report concludes that the estuary management process is the best option for managing Lake Illawarra in the future.”

The report into the review of the LIA is now available at www.crownland.nsw.gov.au

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