

**Jo Haylen**

Minister for Transport

**Yasmin Catley**

Minister for the Hunter

Member for Swansea



## Media Release

# Completion of Stage 1 of Swansea dredging campaign leaves boaters buoyant

**Friday 12 January 2024*****Vision available to download [here](#)***

Lake Macquarie boaters can now enjoy better access to Lake Macquarie, as Transport for NSW completes stage one of dredging in the Swansea Channel.

16,690 cubic metres of sand were removed from three areas to create a 30-metre-wide channel, extending from the Dog Leg southeast of Elizabeth Island, up to the Drop Over northwest of the Swan Bay Entrance.

This work completes the first phase of this two-stage dredging campaign to create a safe, navigable channel for boats, with more dredging scheduled to begin mid-2024.

Boaters can find more information about the channel depth by viewing the post-dredge hydrographic survey, available [here](#).

As part of the dredging project, Transport for NSW has been working with experts to create a desirable breeding area for the endangered birds by placing dredged sand on Elizabeth Island.

Lake Macquarie is now awash with adorable Little Tern chicks, with our experts counting eight nests and at least ten chicks in the area.

**Quotes attributable to Migratory Shorebird expert Phil Straw:**

“This is a timely reminder to keep your distance from these vulnerable birds and their nests.

“Please do not approach them, be sure to keep dogs away, and respect all signage and fencing around the nesting area.”

**Quotes attributable to Transport Minister Jo Haylen:**

“The Lake Macquarie Region is a beautiful part of New South Wales that attracts boaters and yachties from up and down the coast.”

“As the gateway to Lake Macquarie, it’s so important that the Swansea Channel is safe and accessible for boat users.

“We’ve removed years of sand buildup in this campaign, and we will keep monitoring the channel in preparation for more dredging work later this year.”

**Quotes attributable to Minister for the Hunter Yasmin Catley:**

“This is a huge result for Swansea. I said we’d get this done, and that’s exactly what’s happened.”

“What I’m hearing from the boaties who’ve seen this project take shape and people on the vessels coming through is that it’s a success.”

“Since day one, the Minns Labor Government has committed to dredging the Swansea Channel. I’m proud to deliver for the locals in Swansea and everyone else who loves to enjoy our beautiful waterways.”

“We’re in this for the long haul, and we’ll keep doing the work to keep the Channel flowing as it should.”

**Quotes attributable to NSW Maritime Executive Director Mark Hutchings:**

“I want to congratulate everyone involved in the dredging project for their efforts, creating a safer channel for boaters and a successful breeding season for the endangered Little Terns.”

“Thanks to the work of our team, the threatened Little Tern population is breeding again on Elizabeth Island and boaters are enjoying better access to Lake Macquarie.”

“It’s always fantastic when our work has a positive impact not just for the community, but also on the broader environment.”

“If you’re on the water this Australia Day, remember to not only look out for your little ones but these special chicks too.”

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