



Media Release

18th November 2010

Conjola Entrance Intervention

Council is planning a pre Christmas attempt to open the lake in accordance with their adopted Policy position.

After gaining Licence approval from the Land and Property Management Association Council will begin the process of opening the channel at Conjola entrance on Monday 29/11/2010.

Works will be staged from Cunjurong Point and centred on the northern shoreline to avoid shorebird nesting impact.

Lake Conjola Entrance Management Policy adopted in 2003 requires the lake entrance to be maintained open due to water quality impacts experienced during the extended lake closure during the 1990's.

Coastal storm impact in 2006 and 2008 along with low rainfall conditions has seen many NSW coastal lakes close due to sand build up in entrance channels and lack of flood scour to clear estuary entrances.

Preliminary results from the Conjola Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan show that the condition of the entrance has a significant influence on flood behaviour in Conjola Lake.

For catchment flooding, an effective open entrance provides for lower flood levels in comparison to a shoaled or closed entrance. However an open entrance could also worsen flood levels from ocean flooding (inundation of land by storm surges).

The Flood Risk Management Study and Plan will investigate in detail how entrance intervention may be managed in the future to mitigate the flood risks in view of economic, social and environmental considerations.

More information on the flood risk management study is available at <http://gis.wbmpl.com.au/conjolalake/>

CONTACT: Natural Resources and Floodplain Manager Isabelle Ghetti

02 4429 3300