

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR LAKE INNES/LAKE CATHIE ESTUARINE SYSTEM

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Page 1 of 2

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and key local community stakeholders came together recently to continue discussions into the current state of the Lake Innes/Lake Cathie estuarine system.

The meeting included Revive Lake Cathie, Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce and Lake Cathie Progress Association, and involved Council presenting information that has been considered by the various Government stakeholders, following a series of meetings and workshops.

“It was great to again meet with the numerous local community stakeholders as we continue to work together on the many issues that are impacting the lake systems,” said Mayor Peta Pinson.

“As Council, we take the condition of the Lake Innes/Lake Cathie estuarine system extremely seriously, and I as your Mayor, the General Manager, senior and specialist staff are all committed to working hand in hand with the many agencies and stakeholders that have a role to play.”

Discussion focussed on a number of key elements including

- the issues affecting the system;
- the ownership and management framework that applies to the system;
- an overview of the legislation;
- what we’ve heard from our community;
- what has already been done;
- what are our options for action;
- what Council are doing, and;
- where to from here?

President Danielle Maltman said Revive Lake Cathie is thankful that Council is hosting Lake Cathie Local Community Stakeholder meetings.

“Revive Lake Cathie looks forward to partnering with Council and all stakeholders in the implementation of a holistic approach in addressing the crisis in the Lake Innes/Lake Cathie estuarine system,” said Ms Maltman.

“According to a new study compiled by Council and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Lake Cathie estuarine system is in 'imminent risk of acidification if the drought continues'.

Continued over>>>

Page 2 of 2

“This risk is of grave concern to Revive Lake Cathie Members, who seek immediate action from all stakeholders to mitigate the impacts of drought and man-made intervention, as we lead into predictions of future drought conditions,” Ms Maltman added.

Executive Officer of the Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Industry, Marisha Woods said it is fantastic to see Port Macquarie-Hastings Council undertaking stakeholder consultation in relation to the Lake Cathie/Lake Innes estuarine system, which is no doubt a result of the extensive research and advocacy of Revive Lake Cathie.

“We appreciate Revive Lake Cathie’s tireless efforts toward future proofing the estuarine system for the benefit of our wider community, and are pleased to be working together with the key stakeholders toward sustainable solutions,” said Ms Woods.

President of the Lake Cathie Progress Association, Vern Warner said that the Association are very supportive of the work that Revive Lake Cathie are undertaking to revive the lake.

Mayor Pinson added that many lake systems up and down the coast are suffering at the moment.

“As a group we acknowledge there is no easy or quick solution, however we’re extremely encouraged by the informative and positive nature of this stakeholder meeting,” Mayor Pinson said.

“Our lake system is such a significant and valuable environmental asset, and we will continue to work hard on behalf of our community to protect and enhance the system for future generations to enjoy.”

Further information on the Lake Innes/Lake Cathie estuarine system is available on Council’s website pmhc.nsw.gov.au/lake-cathie.

MEDIA CONTACT: Andy Roberts 0412 769 454