

Our reference: MD09/4068

Mr Russ Pigg  
General Manager  
Shoalhaven City Council  
PO Box 42  
NOWRA NSW 2541

Shoalhaven City Council

Received

9 NOV 2009

3 - NOV 2009

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to: ER

Dear Mr Pigg

I refer to your letter of 2 September 2009 to the former Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, regarding the Burrill Lake entrance. Your letter has been referred to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water for reply.

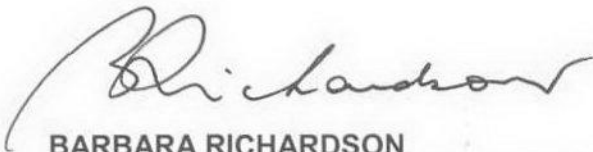
I understand that some members of the community have expressed concerns regarding the management of the lake entrance, particularly given the flooding impacts now being experienced. However, premature opening of the lake or permanent draining or dredging of the entrance will not provide a sustainable solution to the flooding of low lying foreshore properties.

The Interim Burrill Lake Entrance Management Policy adopted by Shoalhaven City Council identifies when it is appropriate to create an artificial opening to the sea. In response to the concerns raised by Council and the community, the Department is willing to assist in any review of the current interim policy and the most appropriate level at which the lake should be manually opened.

In terms of identifying a more permanent solution to the management of the lake's entrance, I am advised that the best course of action is finalisation of the Burrill Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan which is currently in progress.

Should you need further information, or wish to arrange a representative from the Department to be involved in a review of the current interim policy, please contact Mr Scott Renwick, Senior Natural Resource Officer, on (02) 4224 9635.

Yours sincerely



**BARBARA RICHARDSON**  
Director Urban and Coastal Water Reform  
Climate Change, Policy and Programs

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