2 June 2020

The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP  
Minister for Water, Property and Housing  
Member for Oxley  
PO Box 3120  
WEST KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Minister Pavey,

Confirmation of Management Responsibilities Lake Cathie and Lake Innes Estuarine System

Council considered the attached report, Lake Cathie Emergency Opening for Flood Mitigation, at its Ordinary Council meeting on 20 May 2020 and resolved as follows:

That Council:

1. Determines that the scraping of the berm at a level of 1.2m AHD provides best balance of the environmental, community and protection of infrastructure requirements.
2. Request the General Manager to proceed to take the action as determined in 1. above.
3. Request the General Manager prepare appropriate community information explaining the action as determined in 1. above to be taken and the possible impacts of the action.
4. Request the General Manager to write to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing confirming that Council's ongoing physical responsibilities for management of the Crown owned Lake Cathie waterbody are strictly limited to the responsibilities of flood mitigation, stormwater drainage and community protection only and any actions outside of this scope (including public health issues and complaints about water quality, odour, colour, mosquitoes, fish kills, fish health, ecology of the waterway, salinity, acid sulphate soils, pollution, water safety and the like) will be directed to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Crown Lands as the owner of the waterbody.

I am writing in response to Resolution 4 above, to advise that Council’s ongoing management responsibility for Lake Cathie, will be for flood mitigation purposes only as it relates to stormwater drainage and community protection.

The purpose of such a clarification is to enable Council to provide guidance and understanding for our community on Council’s role and responsibilities in respect of the management of Lake Cathie. Council will continue to engage in an effective and meaningful working relationship with the various state government departments involved in management of the lake and through the development of the Coastal Management Program for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area. This clarification seeks to assist in everyone’s understanding of roles as we move into the development of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Coastal Management Program.
I would also like to acknowledge the assistance provided by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Crown Lands to Council to date and with the recent opening of Lake Cathie with advice and the timely granting of a Short Term Licence for Emergency Flood Mitigation.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Craig Swift-McNair
General Manager

cc: Leslie Williams