

CANTON BEACH

We're losing black ooze



Black sludge is being removed from Canron Beach and replaced with sand as part of a \$3.3 million rescue package.

Pictures: WAIDE MAGUIRE

Denice Barnes

BLACK ooze is being replaced by sand at Canton Beach, the first of a number of Tuggerah Lake foreshores to be rescued thanks to the \$3.3 million boost from the Federal Government.

Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt and Dobell federal Liberal MP Karen McNamara visited the site on Tuesday to view first-hand the transformation and to meet the Wyong Council staff who

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM

were undertaking the work. Mr Hunt, no stranger to the area having visited the same place a year ago to announce the funding, was more than impressed with the difference in 12 months. "This is a genuine, real transformation already," he said. "Combined with the council work and funding, it's a perfect combination. "You guys have done a

brilliant job and you should be really proud. "This is very impressive and I am delighted to be here to launch the Tuggerah Lake recovery plan and the national Coastal River Recovery program." Tuggerah Lakes is one of five waterways across Australia to be rescued by the \$9 million national Coastal River Recovery program.

"This project is the best example of the Federal Government working with the people on the ground," Mr Hunt said.

"A year ago this was a smelly mess, now it's a beautiful area and you deserve this."

Mrs McNamara said she was pleased Mr Hunt had taken such a big interest in the area.

"We see today how all lev-



Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt and Dobell federal Liberal MP Karen McNamara with Doug Eaton and Lloyd Taylor discussing the river recovery program at Canton Beach.

els of government can work together," she said.

"It is so important we get this right. The people of the Central Coast care deeply about the Tuggerah Lakes."

She said the \$3.3 million will be spent across the Tuggerah Lakes estuary to improve water quality over the next three years. "This is vital work that will be of benefit to both the environment and the local community," Mrs McNamara said.

LOOKING AHEAD AT PRIORITIES

- Over the next three years Wyong Council will spend the \$3.3 million across a number of activities with Canton Beach being the first priority
- Around \$350,000 has been spent re-nourishing 400m of Canton Beach foreshore and new tree plantings
- The beach will be safe for swimming and open in time for Christmas
- Next year work will start at Long Jetty and other major projects include new gross pollutant traps at various areas in the lake system, foreshore enhancements and streambank stabilisations

NEW PROJECTS

Greg Hunt and Karen McNamara also visited two Green Army projects in Wyong Shire, one at The Entrance North dunes and another Kanwal. "Two of the first Green Army projects in the Central Coast region are now under way with young people working on a range of environmental activities to help them gain valuable skills," Mr Hunt said.