

From: Doug Darlington

Sent: Tuesday, 13 August 2024 1:32 PM

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Subject: DREDGING THE ENTRANCE CHANNEL

Hi David

This is to argue against dredging The Entrance Channel. The catalyst for my email is Graham Hankin appearing on NBN News last night campaigning for a permanent dredge in the channel. You can view the news item [HERE](#)

I have attached an extract from the 2014 Tuggerah Lakes Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan. It concludes that dredging did nothing to stop flooding. Relevant quotes:

- Generally, the approaches adopted today involve less human interference and a more "natural" opening regime. Ad hoc or informal opening or clearing of the entrance is not recommended.
- It is unclear how dredging will reduce the duration of flooding. Whilst in theory any removal of sand from upstream of the berm at the beach will provide some reduction as it will "facilitate scour", the link between dredging and reduction in duration is not defined.
- the benefit to the community in terms of reduced tangible or intangible flood damages due to dredging has never been quantified.
- The June 2007 event occurred with the current dredging regime in operation. It is unclear if the dredging activities prior to the event had any benefit but certainly they did not prevent the lake from reaching approximately the 10% AEP flood level (slightly higher than February 1990) resulting in considerable tangible and intangible damages to the community.
- Whilst any reduction in flood level or duration of inundation is beneficial this must be balanced against the economic, social and environmental cost of dredging and whether the funds could achieve a greater benefit if spent on other floodplain risk management measures.
- In conclusion there is very limited justification for dredging of the entrance to Tuggerah Lakes in terms of reducing flood damages and other measures may provide a greater benefit cost ratio in reducing flood damages.

A dredge can not get close enough to the berm to help reduce flooding.



There will be no reduction in peak flood levels because dredging will not prevent closure of the entrance and so reduce flood levels. The current Council plan to open the berm when flooding threatens is the best solution. The annual cost to Wyong Shire Council for dredging at the entrance to Tuggerah Lakes is in the order of \$0.5 million for just 3 month a year.

Regards
Doug