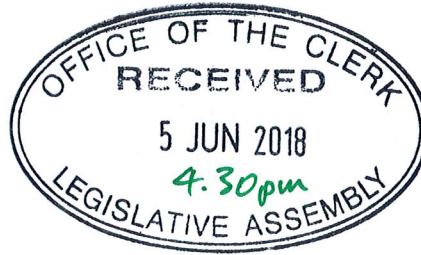




**The Hon Paul Toole MP**  
Minister for Lands and Forestry  
Minister for Racing

IM18/11413

Ms Helen Minnican  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



5 JUN 2018

Dear Ms Minnican

I refer to the petition presented by Ms Liesl Tesch MP, Member for Gosford, on 12 April 2018, asking that the NSW Government cooperate with the local council to fund and implement a long-term dredging solution for the Brisbane Water Channel.

The NSW Government's Coastal Dredging Strategy provides a framework for prioritising dredging projects, key programs and actions up to 2026. Under the Strategy, Central Coast Council is responsible for maintenance dredging of Ettalong Channel because there is no State-owned maritime infrastructure in this waterway. Notwithstanding this, the NSW Government has proven its commitment by undertaking emergency dredging in July and October 2017, to provide a short-term relief for boaters, particularly the Ettalong-Palm Beach Ferry Service.

As a demonstration of the NSW Government's commitment to be part of the long-term solution for Brisbane Water, the NSW Government has advised that it will fund a third round of emergency dredging of the Ettalong Channel. This decision was made on the basis that Council has committed to apply for funding under the Rescuing our Waterways program. The NSW Government is in discussions with Council with regards to a long term sustainable management approach for Brisbane Waterways.

Rescuing Our Waterways (Phase Five) is currently open and funding applications are invited prior to the closing date on 8 June 2018. Up to \$1.5 million in funding will be available to local councils on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Under the NSW Coastal Management reforms, Central Coast Council also has an opportunity, through the coastal zone management planning process, to access funding from the Office of Environment & Heritage for coastal hazard mitigation and beach amenity improvements, that is, utilisation of dredged sand for nourishment of local beaches.

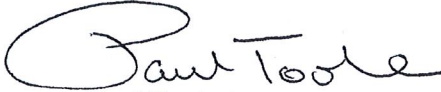
To define the scope of work a hydrographic survey of the Ettalong Channel has been completed to show the extent of shoaling within the channel. DoI Crown Lands will consult with Council and other government agencies to confirm the project scope, including sand disposal options, and arrange for a suitable dredge contractor to undertake the work. Prior to commencing the work, the Department will need to obtain all necessary planning approvals.

Roads & Maritime Services currently monitors and assesses the condition of the channel, including managing navigation aids, to assist boaters and commercial vessel operators to navigate the channel effectively and safely.

Should you require additional information, or wish to discuss this matter further, Mr Glenn Bunny, Director Infrastructure & Land Management in the Department of Industry – Crown Lands, can be contacted on (02) 4920 5049.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Toole', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Paul Toole MP  
**Minister**

Cc: Ms Liesl Tesch MP  
Member for Gosford