25 January 2011

LAND CLAIM OVER LAKE MACQUARIE REFUSED

The NSW Government has today refused a claim lodged by the Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council over Lake Macquarie.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, said Lake Macquarie is lawfully used and occupied by various users and is needed for a variety of essential public purposes including recreation and commercial enterprises.

“Lake Macquarie is therefore not claimable Crown land within the meaning of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983,” the Minister said.

Lake Macquarie is the largest coastal saltwater lake in Australia and is used all year round for fishing, swimming, water skiing and boating.

Various businesses also operate out of Lake Macquarie including kayak hire, catamaran charters and jet boat rides.

Mr Kelly said Lake Macquarie is a unique, invaluable and irreplaceable recreational asset for not only the Lake Macquarie and Central Coast communities, but the whole of NSW.

“It is also a landmark destination for visitors, tourists and water sport enthusiasts,” the Minister said.